YEAR 2076
STAR CHILDREN
スターチルドレン
NEW SERIES
PEOPLE ENTRUST THEIR FUTURE TO SPACE...
THE LAST NEW SERIES OF THE YEAR TAKES PLACE
65 YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
LIFTOFF WITH THE FULL 63 PAGES!
THIRTEEN DAYS ARE LEFT TO THE FIRST IN HISTORY MANNED PROBE TO JUPITER
THE JUPITER SHUTTLE "JUPITNEER" THAT IS TO PLAY THE LEADING PART IN THIS IS CURRENTLY MOORED AT THE DOCKING PORT
ON THE FARTHEST TIP OF THE SPACE SIDE OF THE SPACE ELEVATOR

THE OATH SWORN TOGETHER — TO TOUCH DOWN ON JUPITER!!
STAR CHILDREN
スターチルドレン
#1 On Your Mark
First serialization of a young cell overflowing with wisdom!
KIDA MASASHI
THE HOT-BLOODED ASTRONAUT MANGA!
ASCAN
JAXA

NEW SERIES
STAR CHILDREN
KIOA MASASHI
THE STORY BEGINS FOUR COLOR PAGES AGO!
THE JUPITHEER 11 HAVE ALREADY ASSEMBLED OVER THERE, RIGHT?
HO
THE CREW MEMBERS CURRENTLY HAVE THEIR LAST FREE TIME BEFORE THE LAUNCH DATE
THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO REASSEMBLE AT THE STATION IN THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT 5 DAYS BEFORE LAUNCH
SO, THE ONLY JAPANESE MEMBER AMAMI KOUSEI-SAN ISN'T THERE EITHER?
CORRECT
!!
YUUTO !!
HEY, YUUTO!

AH AH, IT GOT INJURED
SUCH A THICK SKULL
SHOULD BE PUNISHED OBVIOUSLY
PEOPLE WHO IGNORE CLASS AND WATCH TV
THAT HURT!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU VIOLENT TEACHER!!
I OBJECT TO VIOLENCE !!
YUUTO, IT'S YOUR FAULT
GIVE IT UP

SHE JUST DOESN'T GET IT, THAT VIOLENT TEACHER !!
... GEEZ
THE AWESOMENESS OF THE FIRST MANNED PROBE OF JUPITER!!
IT IS AWE-SOME !!
WHAT'S MORE, THERE'S ONE JAPANESE CREW MEMBER SELECTED FROM AMONG ALL THE ASTRONAUTS IN THE WORLD...
HUH !?
...
IS THIS REALLY SOME-THING SO AWE-SOME?
BUT THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF UNMANNED JUPITER PROBES

HE IS AMAMI KOUSEI !!
THAT'S RIGHT, ME!!

EH! HE'S THE REAL ONE !?
LONG TIME NO SEE, YUUTO!
KOUSEI !!!

AREN'T I AMAZING !!?

SO YOU AND AMAMI-SAN KNOW EACH OTHER, YUUTO
IS THAT AN AUTO-GRAPH ?
OHHHH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
HEEH ~
I OFTEN CAME TO THEIR HOUSE TO VISIT EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE
YUUTO'S FATHER IS LIKE MY ASTRONAUT TEACHER
JUPITNEER
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, KOUSEI?
WHAT ABOUT THE JUPITNEER !?

IT'S ALRIGHT
I'LL BE GOING BACK ON THE TOMORROW EVENING SPACE ELEVATOR FLIGHT
IS THAT REALLY ALRIGHT?
IT'S THE FIRST MANNED FLIGHT TO JUPITER AFTER ALL
ACT-UALLY, ABOUT THAT
THEY WERE WONDERING ON TV
IF IT'S REALLY NECESSARY TO USE THAT MUCH MONEY TO GO TO JUPITER?
LIKE I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU ...
MMMG
THE REASON FOR GOING TO JUPITER, HUH...
TRUE, THEY DO SAY A LOT OF THINGS

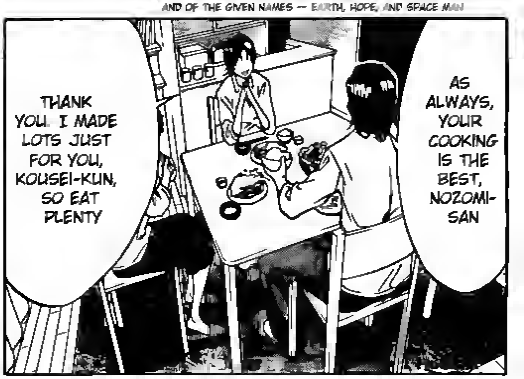
LIKE GOING THERE FOR RESOURCES. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL
HELIUM-3 THAT'S REQUIRED FOR FUSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE MOON, AS WELL AS TRITIUM
BUT HERE'S THE OPPOSITE QUESTION!!
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE ON THIS PLANET?
HOW LONG...?
FOREVER, WON'T WE?
FOR-EVER IS IMPOS-SIBLE
IF WE LOOK IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE POPULATION CONTINUES TO INCREASE, AND THE DEGRADATION OF OUR ENVIRON-MENT WON'T STOP
IF WE TAKE THE LONG TERM VIEW, THE EARTH MIGHT BECOME UNINHABITABLE TO HUMANS DUE TO SOLAR ACTIVITY
OR MAYBE AN UNSTOPPABLE METEOR WILL COME CRASHING DOWN

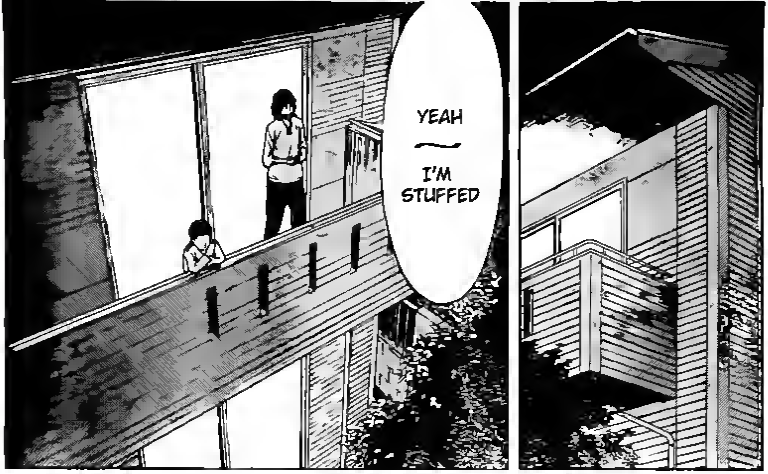
IN ORDER FOR MANKIND AS A SPECIES TO SURVIVE IN THE FUTURE
WE MUST ALSO THINK OF MOVING TO A DIFFERENT PLANET SO THAT WE CAN BE PREPARED FOR SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YET
AND IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT, WE MUST FIRST GO THERE
THERE'S MEANING IN SOMEONE SIMPLY GOING TO JUPITER AND COMING BACK!!
WELL
THAT'S WHAT THE JUPITNEER'S CAPTAIN SAID, BUT I DON'T REALLY GET IT
YOU DON'T GET IT, STUPID KOUSEI !!?

YUNTO, YOU LITTLE BRAT, YOU KICKED ME!?
SHUT UP, IDIOT KOUSEI !!
I'M A PART OF THE JUPITNEER !! !!
LIKE I CARE !!
THEY SAID ON TV THAT THE PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS OF THIS MISSION IS 50%
64% AT BEST
UMM
ARE YOU SCARED?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT !!?
HE'LL BE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER GO TO JUPITER!!
THERE'S NO WAY HE'S SCARED
RIGHT, KOUSEI !!?
I AM SCARED

I'M GOING TO A PLACE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE AND I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN
THAT SCARES ME
JUST KIDDING ~
THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE SCARED!!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT, AMAMI-SAN!!
BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN PICKED FROM AMONG THE WORLD'S ASTRONAUTS, A MEMBER OF THE JUPITNEER 11!!
WE'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU AS WELL !!

TL NOTE: THE MEANING OF THE FAMILY NAME IS THE PLEIADES CONSTELLATION, AND OF THE GIVEN NAMES -- EARTH, HOPE, AND SPACE MAN




YEAH
I'M STUFFED

.....
I'M NOT !!
ARE YOU STILL MAD THAT I ATE YOUR KARAAGE?

SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

KOUSEI, WHY DID YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT BACK THEN?

THAT YOU'RE SCARED OF GOING TO JUPITER
THAT WAS A JOKE ...
YOU'RE LYING !!
....
IT'S TRUE THAT I'M SCARED
... WELL
WHY IS THAT !!?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL, KOUSEI!!
NOT LIKE ME?
WHATEVER DIFFICULT MISSION IT MAY BE
YOU ALWAYS LAUGH, SAY "PIECE OF CAKE", AND HEAD OFF..

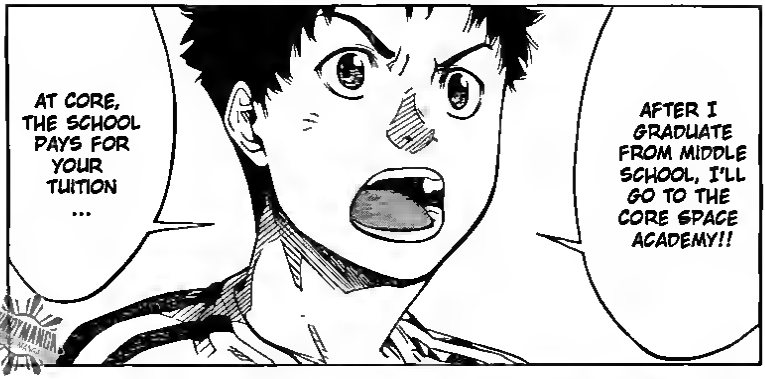
I WANTED TO BECOME LIKE THAT KIND OF KOUSEI
AND DECIDED TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
...I SEE

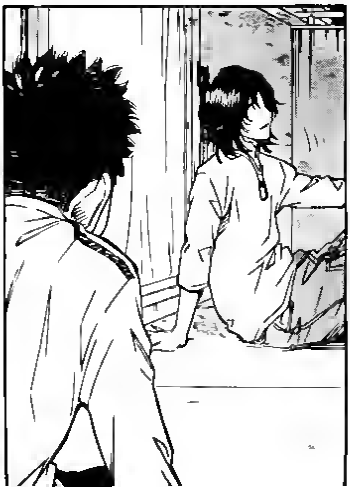
EH!?
GIVE UP ON BECOMING AN ASTRO-NAUT
IN THAT CASE ...

THE SPACE IS A WORLD OF EMPTI-NESS
IT'S A WORLD OF DEATH WHERE HUMANS CANNOT SURVIVE
ONE LITTLE MISTAKE CAN SEND YOU FLYING TO THE EDGES OF THE UNIVERSE
PEOPLE HAVE DIED JUST FROM BRUSHING LIGHTLY AGAINST GARBAGE STREWN AROUND FROM THE PAST SPACE EXPLORATION
OF THE ASTRONAUTS FROM MY CLASS, THREE ARE DEAD ALREADY
I-
I'M NOT SCARED OF THAT !!

YUUTO, HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR PARENTS THAT YOU WANT TO BE AN ASTRO-NAUT?
!!
.....
D-DAD IS AGAINST IT
I HAVEN'T YET
TOLD MOM
WHY?
BUT IF DAD IS AGAINST IT
IT'S OBVIOUS MOM WOULD BE AGAINST IT TOO
SO I'LL BECOME AN ASTRO-NAUT ON MY OWN!!


AFTER I GRADUATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL, I'LL GO TO THE CORE SPACE ACADEMY!!
AT CORE, THE SCHOOL PAYS FOR YOUR TUITION ...

BUT YUUTO
CORE REQUIRES PERMISSION FROM THE PARENTS IN ORDER TO ENROLL



... HUH

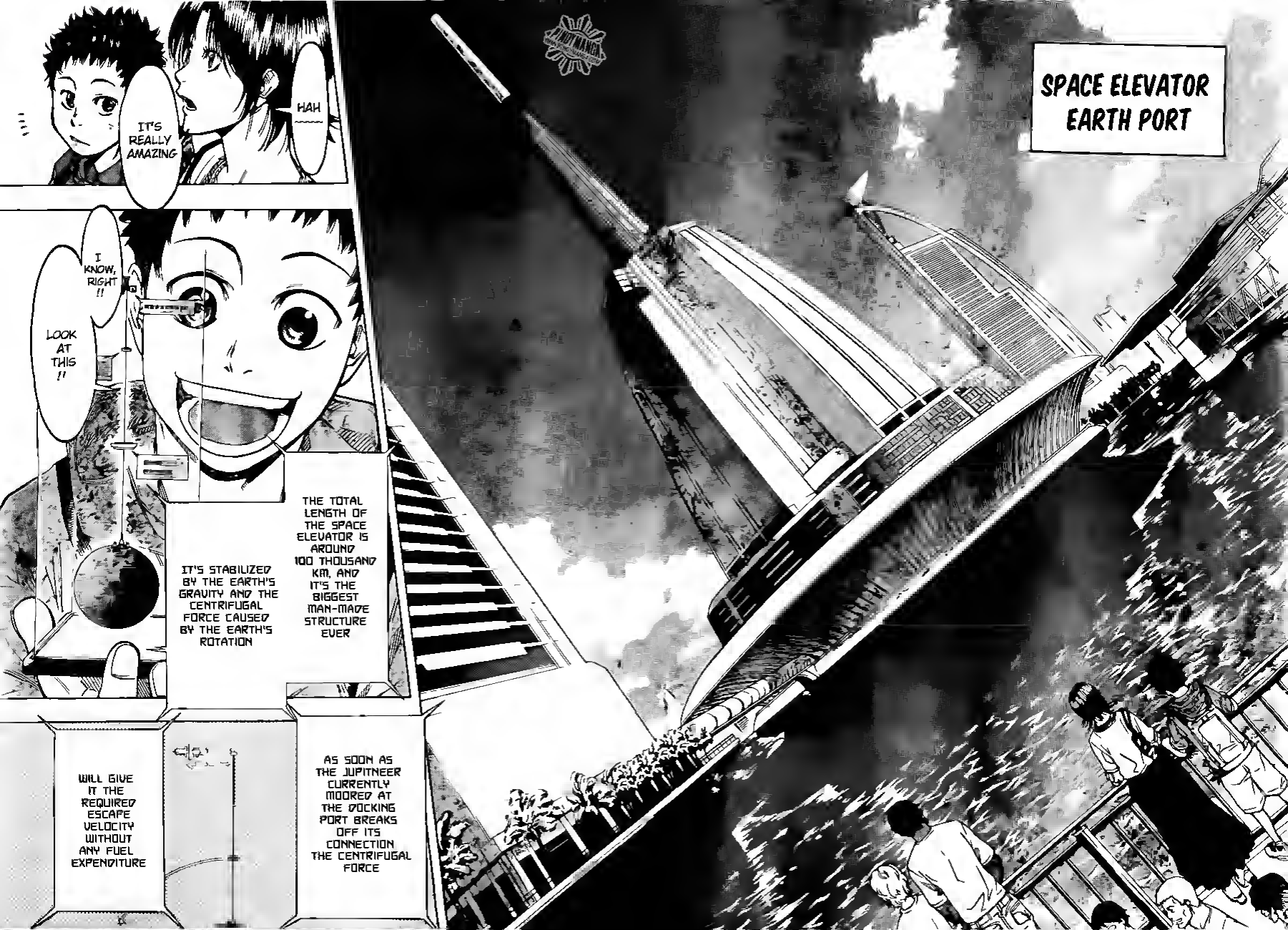
SAY, KOUSEI
IS GOING TO JUPITER REALLY THAT DANGEROUS?
I WONDER ABOUT THAT
I DON'T KNOW EITHER
AND THEN I
THEN LET'S MAKE A PROMISE
KOUSEI, YOU'LL GO TO JUPITER, COMPLETE THE MISSION SUCCESSFULLY, AND RETURN

I'LL BECOME AN ASTRO-NAUT!!
I'LL BECOME AN ASTRONAUT, AND WHEN YOU'RE COMING BACK FROM JUPITER
I'LL FLY OUT TO MEET YOU!!
I'LL MAKE IT WORK OUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
BUT ISN'T IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, YUUTO?
!!
YOU SAID IT!! "ONE WAY OR ANO-THER", YOU SAID IT!!
THEN I'LL MANAGE IT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER AS WELL !!
WHAT KIND OF LOGIC IS THAT?
IT'S A PROMISE, KOUSEI, THE SIGN OF OUR PROMISE!!
HOW WAS THAT ?
LIKE THIS, JUST LIKE THIS!!

ALRIGHT, THEN I'LL BRING THE SHOEMAKER-LEVY COMET
KOUSEI-KUN, BRING US SOME KIND OF A SOUVENIR FROM JUPITER
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPI-TALITY
PRO-MISE?
WOW, YOU HAVE SUCH A BED HEAD
UH... ERR
HEH
KOUSEI, DON'T FORGET OUR PROMISE!!

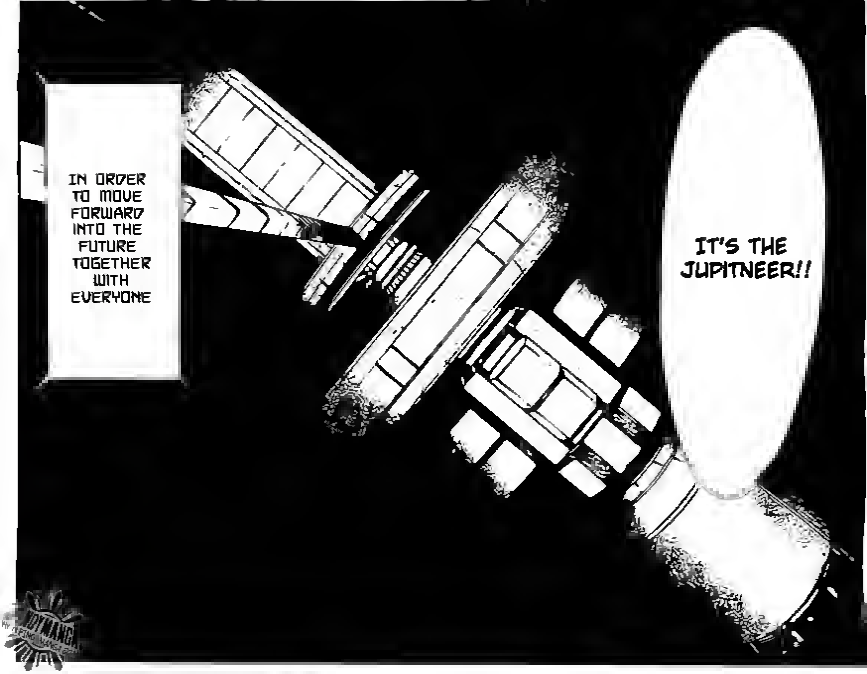
I'LL GO ALL THE WAY TO THE SPACE ELEVATOR TO WATCH ON THE DAY YOU LAUNCH!!
AH, BY THE WAY !!
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID!!
YUUTO
BE A GOOD BOY AND LISTEN TO WHAT NOZOMI-SAN TELLS YOU
WHOA, CRAP!
AH!
KOUSEI-KUN, THE TIME!

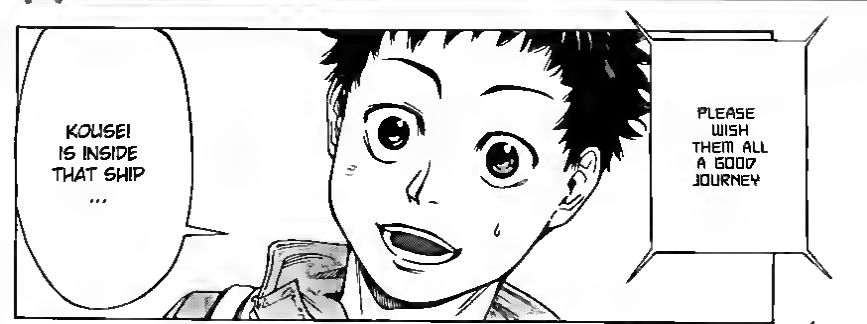
SEE YOU
I'LL GO FOR A QUICK TRIP TO JUPITER
THE AREA OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN ON THE EQUATOR AROUND KIRIBATI


HAH~~~~
IT'S REALLY AMAZING
I KNOW, RIGHT !!
LOOK AT THIS !!
IT'S STABILIZED BY THE EARTH'S GRAVITY AND THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE CAUSED BY THE EARTH'S ROTATION
THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE SPACE ELEVATOR IS AROUND 100 THOUSAND KM, AND IT'S THE BIGGEST MAN-MADE STRUCTURE EVER
WILL GIVE IT THE REQUIRED ESCAPE VELOCITY WITHOUT ANY FUEL EXPENDITURE
AS SOON AS THE JUPITNEER CURRENTLY MOORED AT THE DOCKING PORT BREAKS OFF ITS CONNECTION THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
SPACE ELEVATOR EARTH PORT

IT'S FINE, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SPACE
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT, I MEAN
BESIDES, I'M ACROPHOBIC, SO IT'S NO GOOD FOR ME
BUT IT MIGHT GET BAD IF IT FALLS DOWN
AND I AM ME !!
DAD IS DAD
EVEN THOUGH DAD IS AN ASTRONAUT, ARE YOU ALRIGHT SAYING THAT?
CHE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NOT INTERESTED
YUUTO, NO SUPPER FOR YOU TONIGHT
STUPID MOM
...
WAIT, FORGET I SAID THAT!!
OR THERE WON'T BE ANY SPACE LEFT FOR US
COME ON, LET'S GO ALREADY

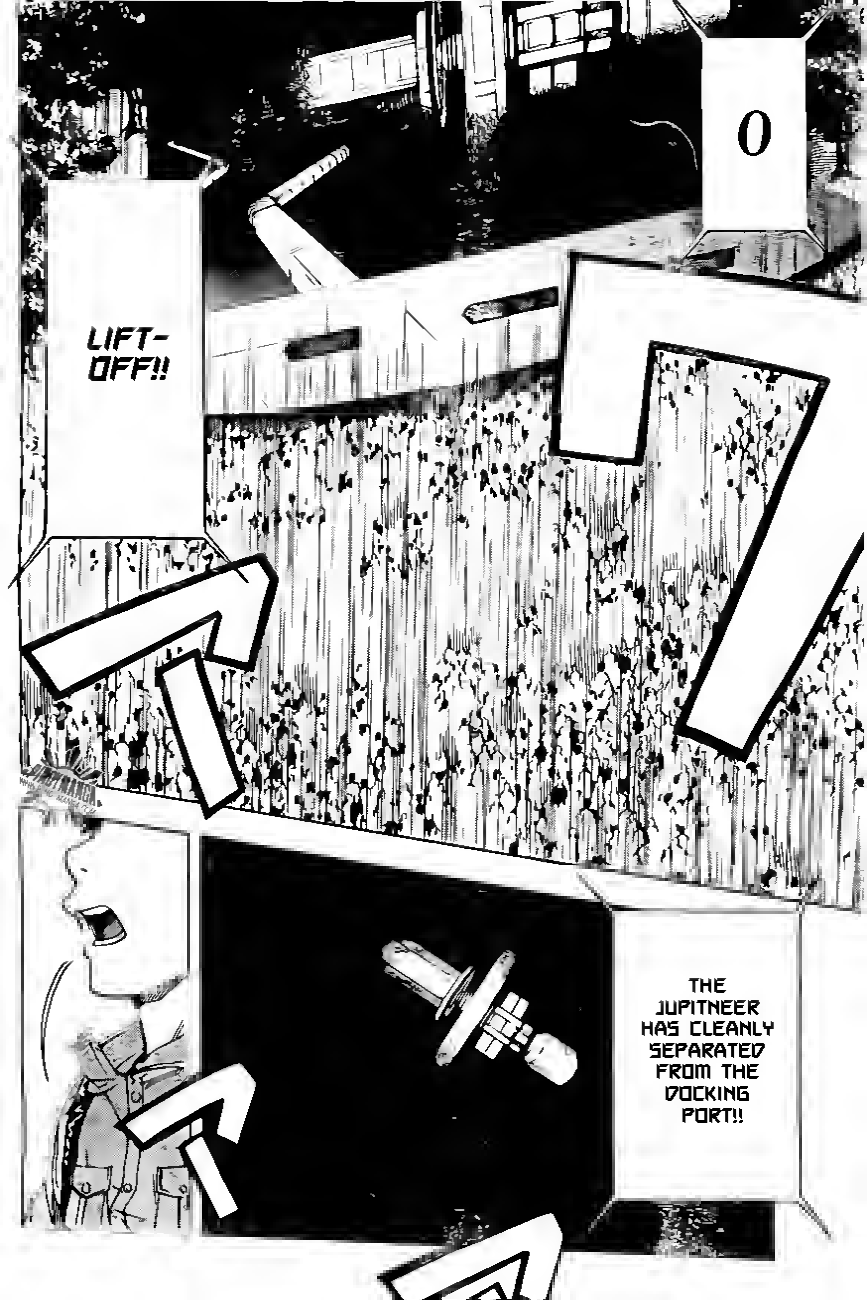
TO THE NEW LAND THAT WE CALL JUPITER
AND TODAY, IN 2076, THE TIME HAS COME FOR MANKIND TO ONCE AGAIN TAKE "A GIANT LEAP!"
THE SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THIS INTERNATIONAL SPACE ELEVATOR WAS COMPLETED
AND THEN, IN 2055
BUT IT WON'T END HERE
RIGHT NOW
YUUTO, CAN YOU SEE?
THE 11 CHOSEN ASTRONAUTS
YUUTO!?
SO MANY PEOPLE ...
IT'S BUT THE FIRST STEP TOWARD BROADENING THE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE TOWARD THE SPACE BEYOND
THE JUPITNEER 11 WILL SET OFF FOR JUPITER!!


IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE
IT'S THE JUPITNEER!!


KOUSEI IS INSIDE THAT SHIP ...
PLEASE WISH THEM ALL A GOOD JOURNEY

ONE MINUTE
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
THIS WAS THE SPEECH FROM THE CORE INC CEO JOHN SHEPARD

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
30 SECONDS
10 SECONDS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LIFT-OFF!!
THE JUPITNEER HAS CLEANLY SEPARATED FROM THE DOCKING PORT!!

TO JUPITER.
...
JUST LOOKING AT THE PICTURE ISN'T ENOUGH
I HAVE TO GO TO THE REAL SPACE...
AHHH
WAIT FOR ME, KOUSEI!!

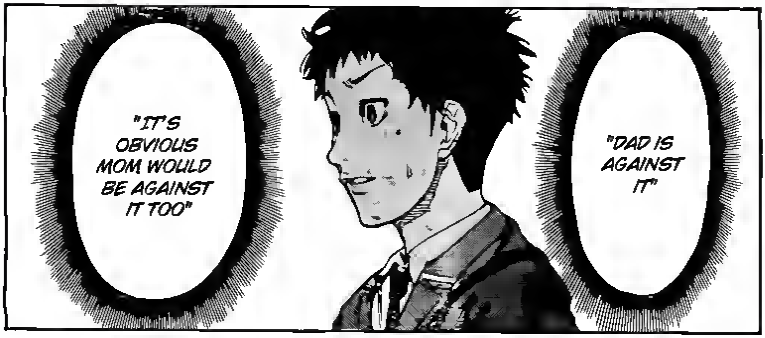
GOOOOO!!!
I'LL BE SURE TO FLY OUT TO MEET YOU!!

スターチルドレン

STAR CHILDREN

スターチルドレン

STAR CHILDREN

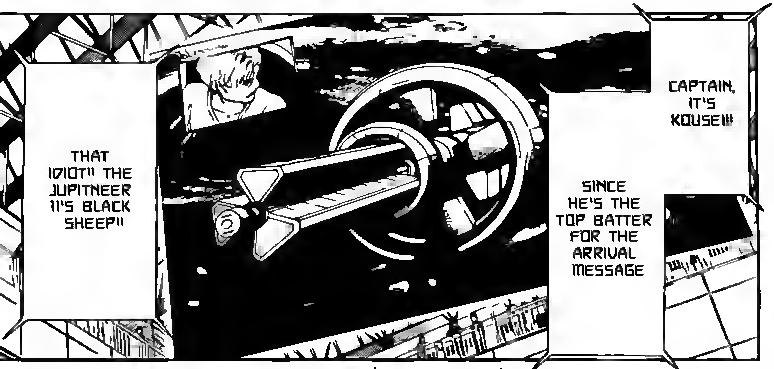


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, YUUTO?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T HANDED IN THEIR CAREER ASPIRATIONS YET
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO CORE SPACE?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT !!
YOU PARENTS ARE AGAINST IT
...
W-WELL, DON'T BE SO PESSI-MISTIC
MAYBE THEY'LL CHANGE THEIR MINDS AFTER THEY SEE THE JUPITNEER'S ARRIVAL!!
AFTER ALL, SOME-ONE THEY KNOW WENT THERE!!
...YEAH

THIS IMAGE IS FROM THE JUPITER EXPLORATION SATELLITE
OHHH!!
AWE-SOME!!
PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE'S A TIME LAG IN TRANSMISSIONS FROM JUPITER
ONCE THE JUPITNEER HAS TRANS-FERRED TO THE ORBIT AROUND JUPITER
AN ARRIVAL MESSAGE IS EXPECTED FROM THE CREW MEMBERS
AH!
WE HAVE AUDIO!!
TH-IS JUPI EER

183 SECONDS TO ENGINE HALT
SYSTEM CHECK
ENGINE NO. 3 TEMPERATURE IS RISING
THAT PIECE OF JUNK AGAIN !!
SENROWA TSUZUKUYO~
DOKOMADEMO
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
NOWO KOEYAMAKOE~

TL NOTE: THESE ARE JAPANESE LYRICS OF "I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD"

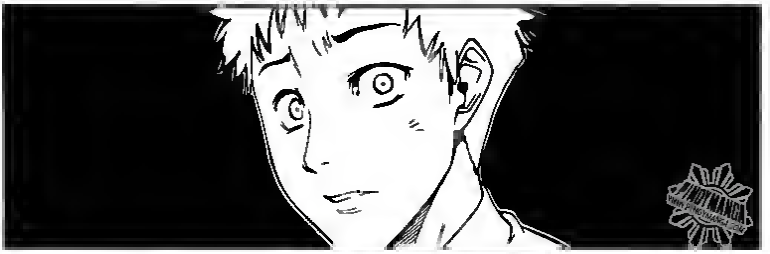


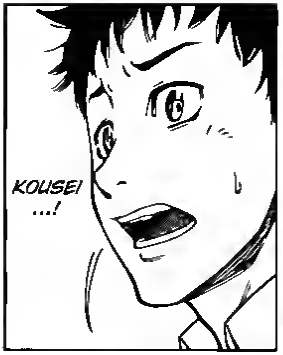
FROM HERE, EARTH LOOKS MERELY AS ONE OF A MULTITUDE OF STARS
I CAN HEAR YOU, MISTER AMAMIU
GEEZ, AT LEAST LET ME GET MY HEART READY
BALDY CAPTAIN
THE WEATHER ON JUPITER IS CLOUDY ALL OVER
EH — AHEMM
HELLO, EVERYONE ON EARTH
BZZZ
SPACE IS A DANGEROUS PLACE
WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS
BUT
BZZ BZZ ZZ
THERE ARE ALSO TIMES WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS AND WE HAVE NO WAYS OF COPING WITH IT
EH, WHAT!? A UFO !?
NO, BEHIND THE JUPITNEER ...
DID SOMETHING FLASH JUST NOW?
WE NEVER KNOW WHEN SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN IN SPACE

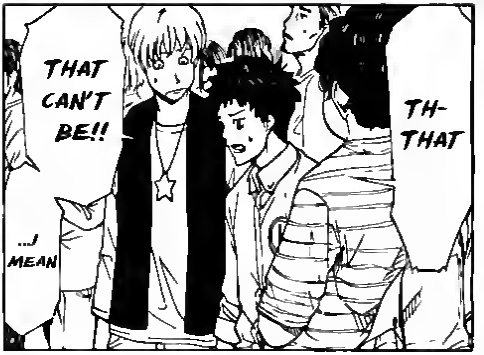
KYA-AA!!!
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT!?
IT EX-PLO-DED !!
WAS THAT AN ACCI-DENT !?
ERR... WE ARE VERY SORRY
EH... UH, YES, GO TO COM-MER-CIAL ...
THE VIDEO IS PRES-ENTLY ...
EH, RIGHT NOW !?
WH-WHAT HAPPE-NED!?
WHAT'S GOING ON, YUUTO !?
I- I DON'T KNOW
... BUT
THE MOMENT THE VIDEO BROKE OFF...
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT AN ENGINE EXPLOSION ...

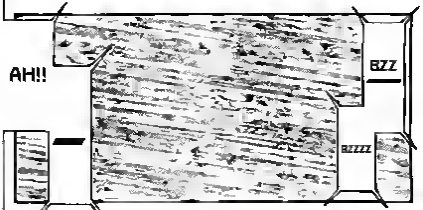
STAR CHILDREN

スター チルドレン







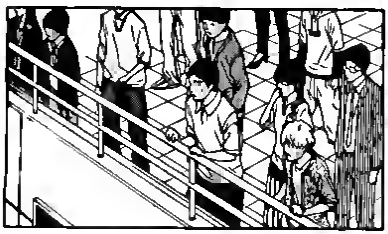


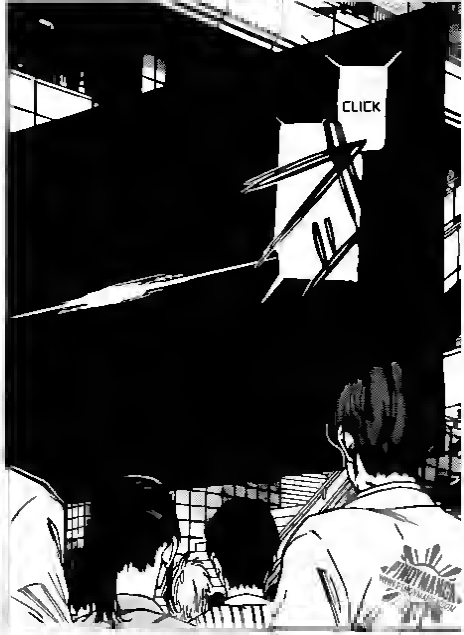
ALRIGHT, I HOPE THIS CONNECTED
THE SITUATION HAS GOTTEN SOMEWHAT BAD
SORRY ABOUT THAT
IT BROKE OFF IN THE MIDDLE JUST NOW

I'M SORRY
BUT I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE FROM THE CREW
H- HEY, WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR MESSAGES OR ANY-THING?!
ERR... HOW FAR DID I GET LAST TIME?
SOMEONE SHOULD STOP HIM.,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, HE'S ON JUPITER!!
THAT'S RIGHT
I SAID THAT SPACE IS DANGE-ROUS
IT'S TRUE THAT SPACE IS DANGE-ROUS
HUMANS CAN'T LIVE IN SPACE
...BUT

THERE'S VALUE IN WHAT WE ASTRONAUTS DO
THAT'S PRE-CISELY WHY
I WANT TO... GO FARTHER INTO SPACE
AND NEW DISCO-VERIES TO BE MADE
IN SPACE, THERE ARE MANY PLACES THAT NO ONE HAS GONE TO YET
THE POSSIBI-LITIES OF SPACE ARE LIMIT-LESS
NO
THAT'S WHY I...

WE WON'T GIVE UP!!
BUT IT'S ALRIGHT!!
WELL, THE SITUATION MIGHT BE A LITTLE BAD
I'VE UNDERGONE INTENSIVE TRAINING JUST FOR SUCH EVENTUALITIES
...OH, THERE'S ONE THING I FORGOT TO SAY
THERE'S SOMETHING I NOTICED WHEN I CAME TO JUPITER...

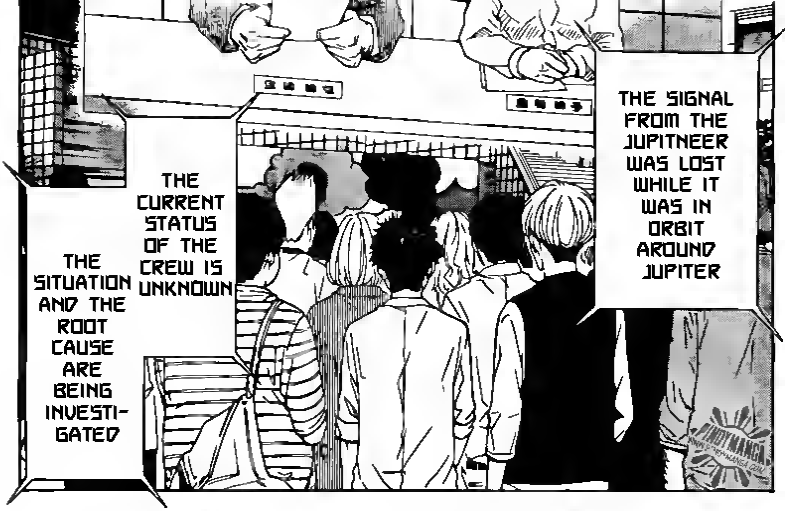


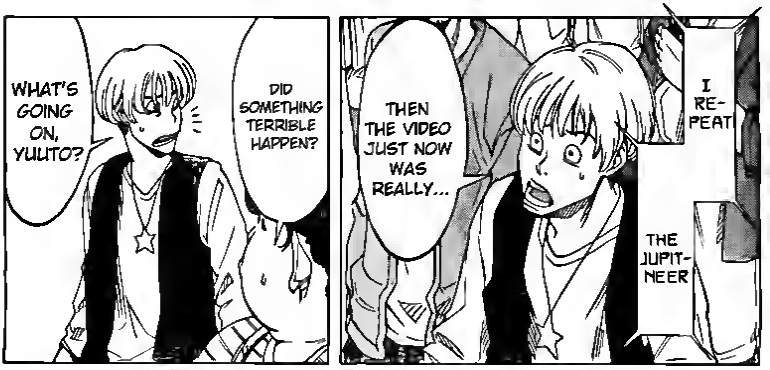

CLICK

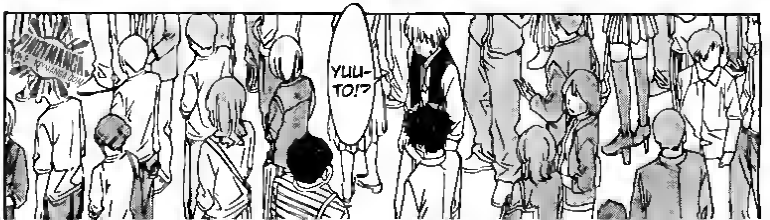
D-DON'T ASK ME!!
I- IS HE ALRIGHT?

EH ERR ...
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON...?

ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CORE INC WHICH OPERATES THE JUPITNEER
AH...
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED INFOR-MATION


THE SIGNAL FROM THE JUPITNEER WAS LOST WHILE IT WAS IN ORBIT AROUND JUPITER
THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CREW IS UNKNOWN
THE SITUATION AND THE ROOT CAUSE ARE BEING INVESTI-GATED


WHAT'S GOING ON, YUUTO?
DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPEN?
THEN THE VIDEO JUST NOW WAS REALLY...
I RE-PEAT
THE JUPIT-NEER


YUU-TO!?

YOU STILL HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANY-THING?
THE TEACHER SAID TO HAND IN CAREER ASPIRA-TIONS AT ONCE ...
YUUTO

...I'M SCARED
WHAT KOUSEI TOLD ME ...
NOW I FINALLY UNDER-STAND
I DIDN'T THINK ...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED TO THE JUPITNEER ... TO KOUSEI ...
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE JUPIT-NEER ~~~~
IF SOMETHING EXPLODED LIKE THAT IN SPACE...
THAT WAS AMAZING, JUST LIKE A MOVIE
DID YOU SEE IT YESTER-DAY!?
.....

AN EXPERT ON THE INTERNET SAID
THAT THE MISSION FAILED!! THE LIVES OF THE CREW ARE BEYOND HOPE
BUT YOU KNOW
HE WAS AMAZING, THAT AMAMI KOUSEI
HE WAS SMILING IN THAT KIND OF A SITUATION
IF IT WERE ME, I'D BE CRYING MY EYES OUT
IDIOT
DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO HIM
IN THE END, ONLY PEOPLE WHO DON'T FEEL FEAR EVEN IN SUCH TIMES
WOULD BE CHOSEN FOR THE JUPITNEER CREW

IT'S NOT TRUE!!

I... IT'S
.....

HEY, YUUTO!!
UH ...!

"KOUSEI, WHY DID YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT BACK THEN?"
"THAT YOU'RE SCARED OF GOING TO JUPITER"
"IN THE END, ONLY PEOPLE WHO DON'T FEEL FEAR EVEN IN SUCH TIMES ..."
SHIT ...!
WHY DID I ARGUE SO SELF-IMPORTANTLY WITH HIM...?
ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS ME IN THE PAST!?
THAT ASTRO-NAUTS DON'T FEEL FEAR...
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SCARED... HE SENT THAT MESSAGE WITHOUT YIELDING TO HIS FEAR...
...MORE-OVER, THAT WAS
...BUT KOUSEI WAS DIFFERENT, HE WAS WAY AHEAD

"KOUSEI, YOU'LL GO TO JUPITER, COMPLETE THE MISSION SUCCESS-FULLY, AND RETURN"
"IT'S A PROMISE"
THAT WAS THE SIGN OF THE PROMISE!!
AND YET...
WHAT AM I DOING!!?
YUUTO!?
WHY AREN'T YOU AT SCHOOL!?
MOM!!
KOUSEI ... I'VE MADE MY DECISION

I AM
GOING TO SPACE!!
I WANT TO ENROLL IN CORE SPACE AND BECOME AN ASTRONAUT!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU KNOW THAT YOUR FATHER
IS AGAINST YOU BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT, RIGHT?
...YES, I KNOW
AND THAT YOU'RE AGAINST IT TOO...

AFTER YOU SAW ...
THE ACCIDENT WITH KOUSEI-KUN'S JUPITNEER
AREN'T YOU SCARED?
I AM
... BUT
I CAN'T JUST WATCH ANYMORE!!
IF I ONLY WATCH
I CAN'T GO OUT TO SAVE KOUSEI!!

ALRIGHT
DO IT

I'VE NEVER SAID THAT I'M AGAINST YOU BECOMING AN ASTRO-NAUT
IT SEEMS YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING SOMETHING, YUUTO

EH!!?

I'M YOUR MOTHER AND AN ASTRO-NAUT'S WIFE!!
OF COURSE I DID!

MOM, YOU KNEW?
U-UNTIL NOW

IT MEANS THAT YOU'VE DECIDED AFTER THINKING IT THROUGH, DOESN'T IT?
BUT SINCE YOU CAME OUT AND SAID IT, EVEN THOUGH YOU'D NEVER SAID ANYTHING UNTIL NOW

I'LL DO SOME-THING ABOUT YOUR FATHER...

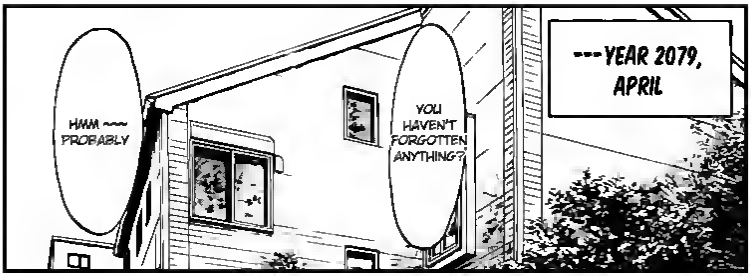
DO IT!!
IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL REGRET IT!!!

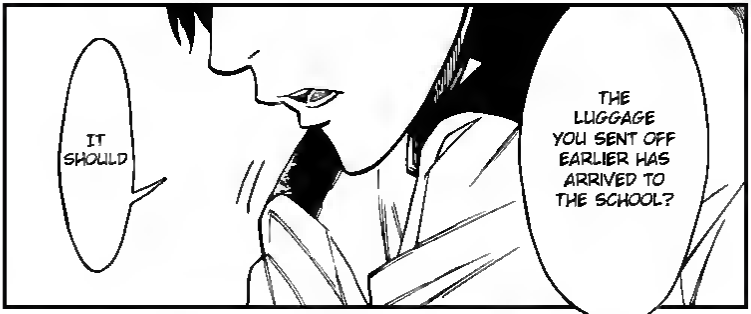
HOW-EVER!!

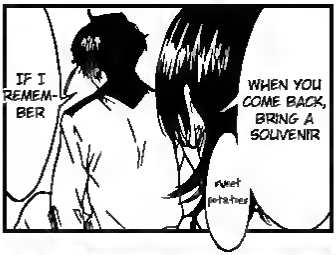
YES!!

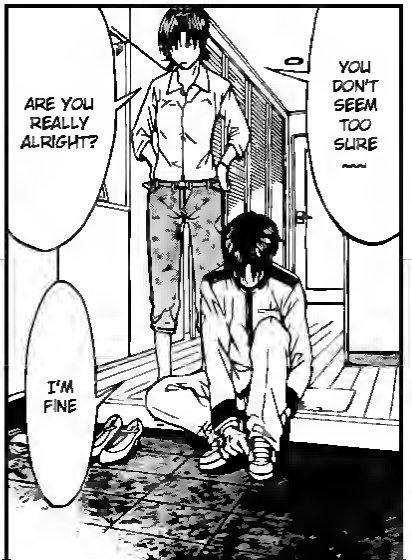
SINCE YOU DECIDED THIS YOURSELF, FROM NOW ON IT'S ALL YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY

GET READY FOR IT!!


---YEAR 2079, APRIL
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ANYTHING?
HMM ~~~ PROBABLY


THE LUGGAGE YOU SENT OFF EARLIER HAS ARRIVED TO THE SCHOOL?
IT SHOULD


WHEN YOU COME BACK, BRING A SOUVENIR
IF I REMEMBER
sweet potatoes


YOU DON'T SEEM TOO SURE ~~~
ARE YOU REALLY ALRIGHT?
I'M FINE

WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK NEXT TIME?
... SO

NEXT CHAPTER IS ALSO SPECIAL

42 PAGES!!

KIDA MASASHI

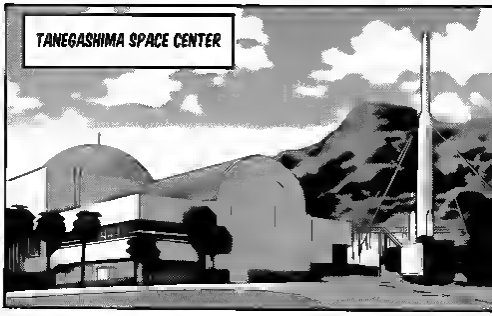
KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE, TANEGASHIMA

THE 2ND INSTALLMENT OF THIS NEW SERIES ALSO HAS A BIG DEVELOPMENT IN 42 PAGES!!

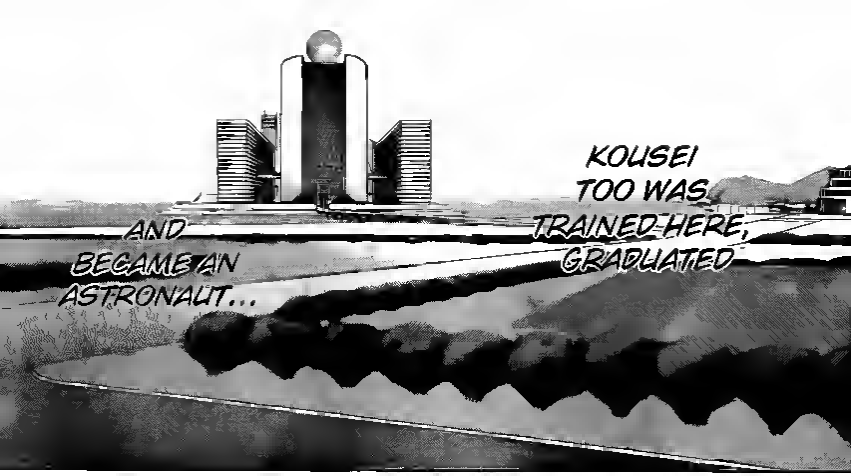
STAR CHILDREN

スターチルドレン

YUUTO HAS LANDED IN A PLACE THAT'S CLOSEST TO SPACE...

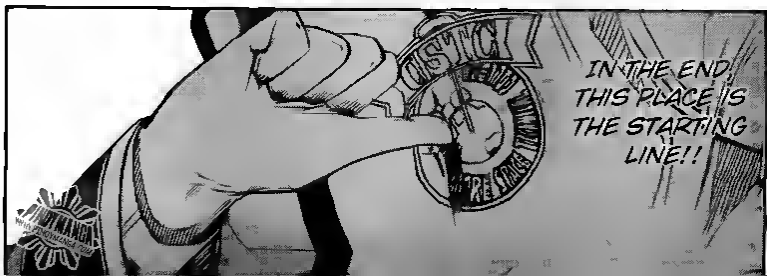


STAR CHILDREN
スターチルドレン
#2 Core Space
CORE SPACE ACADEMY!!
ETCHED IN THE HEART, THE FIRST STEP!!


KOUSEI TOO WAS TRAINED HERE, GRADUATED
AND BECAME AN ASTRONAUT...

... BUT IT'S FINE
SAY WHAT YOU WILL!!

KOUSEI... I'VE COME TO CORE SPACE AS WELL
"IF IT'S JUST ENROLLING, ANYONE CAN DO IT"
... BUT STILL
THAT'S WHAT HE'D PROBABLY SAY


IN THE END, THIS PLACE IS THE STARTING LINE!!

WAIT FOR ME, KOUSEI!!
I... WILL BECOME AN ASTRONAUT NO MATTER WHAT!!
WHAT'S THAT, IS THERE SOMETHING TO LOOK AT!?
NO CLUE
YOU'RE .. FROM THE AS DEPART-MENT?
E... EIES!?

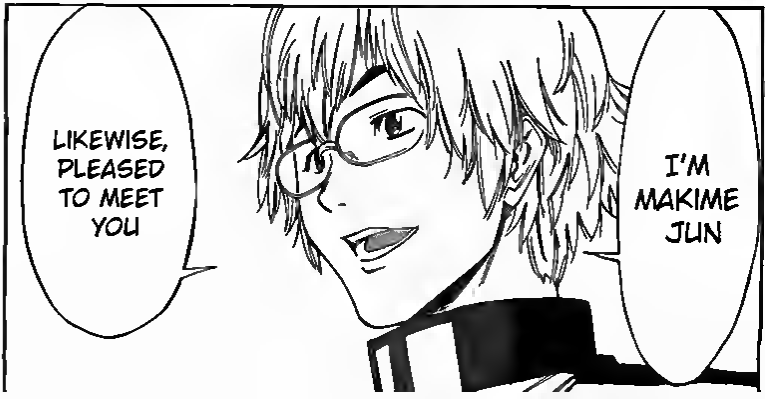
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I'M IN THE ASTRONAUT DEPART-MENT?

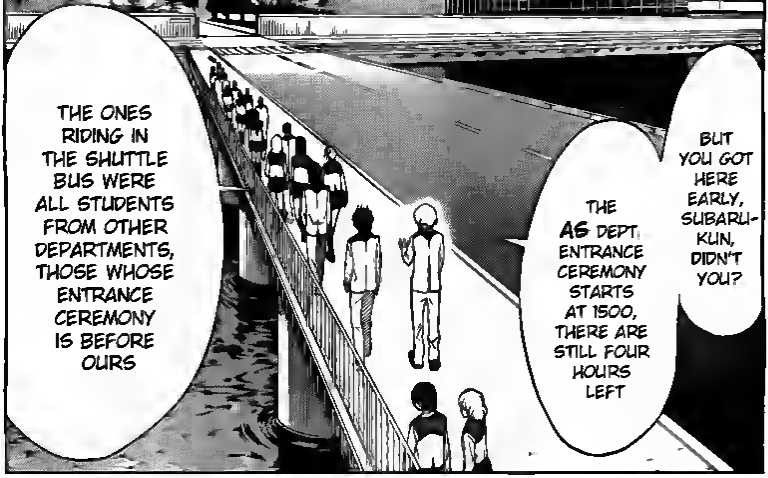
AHHH, I SEE!!
AS, AS IN THE FIRST LETTERS IN ASTRONAUT

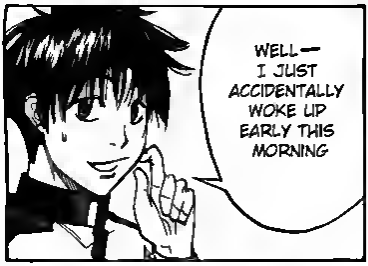
SO YOU'RE A FAN OF AMAMI KOUSEI
EH, YEAH, WELL. .

THAT POSE JUST NOW, IT WAS AMAMI KOUSEI, WASN'T IT?
SO I THOUGHT, COULD YOU BE BY ANY CHANCE ...?

AH, MY NAME IS SUBARU YUUTO
NICE TO MEET YOU


I'M MAKIME JUN
LIKEWISE, PLEASED TO MEET YOU


THE ONES RIDING IN THE SHUTTLE BUS WERE ALL STUDENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS, THOSE WHOSE ENTRANCE CEREMONY IS BEFORE OURS
THE AS DEPT. ENTRANCE CEREMONY STARTS AT 1500, THERE ARE STILL FOUR HOURS LEFT
BUT YOU GOT HERE EARLY, SUBARU-KUN, DIDN'T YOU?


WELL— I JUST ACCIDENTALLY WOKE UP EARLY THIS MORNING

I WANTED TO BE THE FIRST ONE HERE FROM THE AS DEPT, SO I CAME EARLY

I WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD DO BEFORE THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY ...
BUT NOW THAT WE GOT HERE EARLY

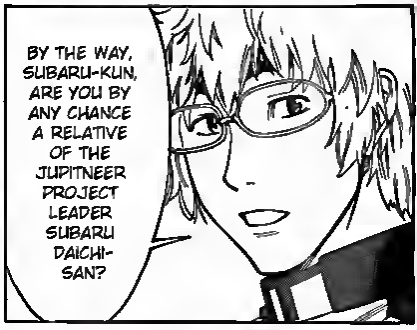
ME TOO!!
AHAHA, I KNOW!!

THE DORM?
ALRIGHT, THEN WE SHOULD GO TO THE DORM

I WAS ALSO THINKING I'D GET HERE EARLY AND COMPLETE THE PROCEDURES FOR MOVING INTO THE DORM
I SEE
THERE ARE PROCEDURES FOR MOVING IN TOO

I'VE BEEN STRANGELY NERVOUS SINCE THE MORNING
I FORGOT SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO

THANK YOU, MAKIME-KUN!!
WE HELP EACH OTHER WHEN IN TROUBLE

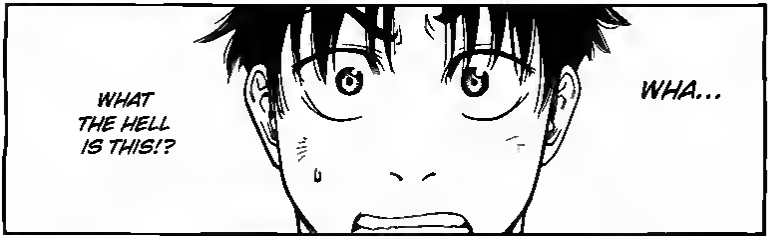

BY THE WAY, SUBARU-KUN, ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE A RELATIVE OF THE JUPITNEER PROJECT LEADER SUBARU DAICHI-SAN?

AH!
I KNEW IT, RIGHT?
DINNER TIME
フォォォ

UH ERR ...
I'M... HIS SON

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK
キィッ
THANK YOU, SPACE ACADEMY, FOR GIVING US SOMETHING TO DO EVERY YEAR ON THE DAY OF THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY
LIKE-WISE
ナオナオ
DINNER TIME
YEAH, LATER
SEE YOU
MINE IS 308
MY ROOM IS 412

RIGHT, THE GUYS WHO GET INTO THE SPACE ACADEMY ARE REALLY MATURE
SO THE DORM HAS TWO PERSON ROOMS ...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHO MY ROOMMATE MIGHT BE...
308
ROOM 308
HERE IT IS!!
WELL, IF HE'S A STUDENT AT THE SPACE ACADEMY, HE WOULDN'T BE SOMEONE WEIRD
BEEP

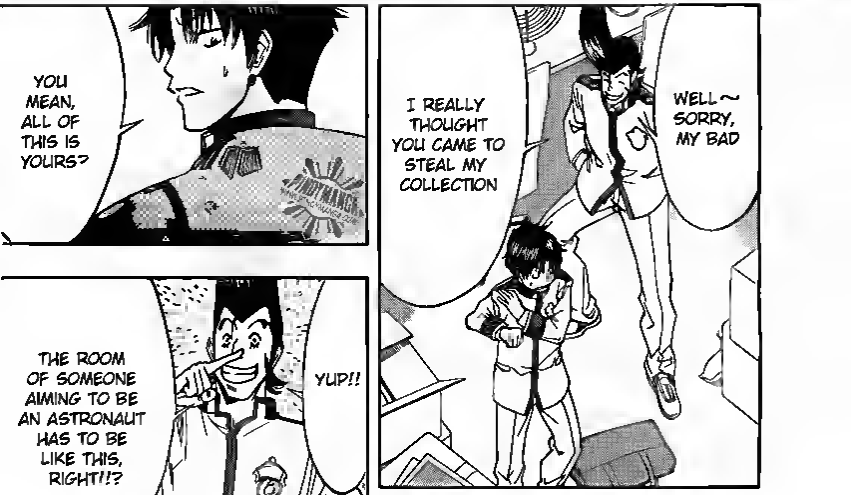

WHA...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
IS THIS ROOM BEING USED AS A WARE-HOUSE OR A STORAGE CLOSET?

ROOM 308 ...
308
...YEAH, LOOKS LIKE IT

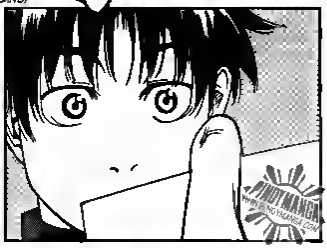
HMM!?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT SOME-THING ...
WOW, FUNKY HAIR
DOOOH!!
UWAAAH!!

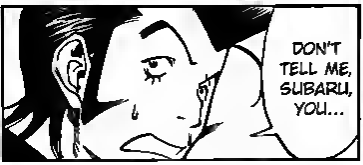
I'M SUBARU YUUTO WHO'LL BE LIVING IN THIS ROOM!!
I CAUGHT A THIEF!!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A THIEF!!?
OUCH!
...SU-BARU YUU-TO!?
REALLY?

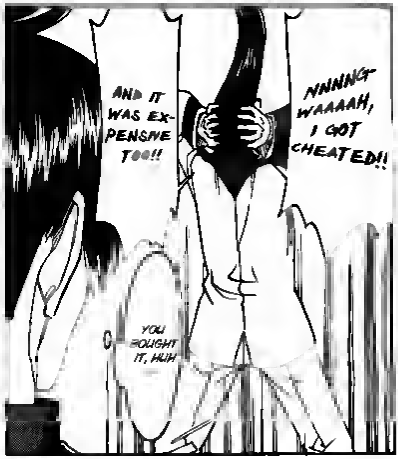

YOU MEAN, ALL OF THIS IS YOURS?
I REALLY THOUGHT YOU CAME TO STEAL MY COLLECTION
WELL~ SORRY, MY BAD
THE ROOM OF SOMEONE AIMING TO BE AN ASTRONAUT HAS TO BE LIKE THIS, RIGHT!!?
YUP!!

I'M GOING TO LIVE IN THIS ROOM TOO
THE NAME'S FUJINO GAKU!!
H... HELLO
SO THERE ARE GUYS LIKE THIS AT THE SPACE ACADEMY TOO...
AND HE'S MY ROOM-MATE ON TOP?
!!
A JUPITNEER POSTER
OHHH!!
THIS POSTER IS A LIMITED EDITION ITEM!!
ACTUALLY!!
I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING EVEN BETTER

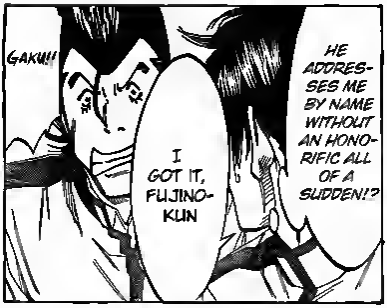
TL NOTE: HIRAGANA IS ONE OF THE PHONETIC ALPHABETS THAT CAN BE USED TO WRITE ANY JAPANESE WORD, IT'S ALSO USED BY CHILDREN UNTIL THEY LEARN KANJI







YOU'RE A FANATIC!?
HEH!?
NO... I'M NOT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT, I CAN SEE
I CAN SAY THAT I'M A SPACE MACHINERY FANATIC TOO
ALRIGHT!! I'LL GIVE YOU THIS AUTO-GRAPHED PHOTO!!
I DON'T NEED IT
DON'T HOLD BACK NOW
THIS AUTO-GRAPH'S A FAKE ...
AS BIROS OF A FEATHER, WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER FROM NOW ON!!
EH!?
BIRDS OF A FEATHER !?


GAKU!!
I GOT IT, FUJINO-KUN
HE ADDRESSES ME BY NAME WITHOUT AN HONORIFIC ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

P... PLEASED TO MEET YOU, FUJINO-KUN
DON'T BE SO COLD!!
CALL ME GAKU, YUUTO!!

I.. I GOT IT, GAKU
AW-RIGHT !!
SUCH A BOTHER

THE ASTRONAUT DEPARTMENT NEW STUDENTS, PLEASE ASSEMBLE IN THE SPHERICAL AUDITORIUM!!
WE WILL SHORTLY HOLD THE ASCAN INITIATION CEREMONY!!

THIS IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE NEW STUDENTS OF THE ASTRONAUT DEPARTMENT

YEAH!!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO, GAKU!!

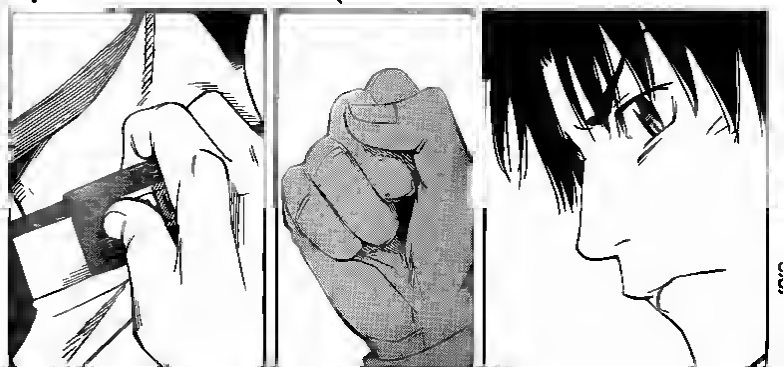
YEAH, FINALLY ～!!

AS YOU KNOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SPACE DEVELOPMENT CURRENTLY FINDS ITSELF IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION
FOLLOWING THE JUPITNEER ACCIDENT
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT CONCERNS DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION, AS WELL AS EXPLOITATION
HOW-EVER
THE BACKLASH FROM THE WORLD HAS BEEN SEVERE

WAS THE JUPITNEER ACCIDENT SUCH A FAILURE THAT THE WORLD SAYS IT WAS?
WE DON'T THINK SO!!
BUT WE CAN'T STOP HERE AND NOT ADVANCE FURTHER!!
CERTAINLY, THE ACCIDENT WAS PAINFUL
THE TRUTH IS THAT THERE ARE MANY POINTS THAT WE MUST REFLECT UPON
THE ASCAN BADGES THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE RECEIVED

ASCAN
アスキャン
AStronaut CANdidate
"UCHUU-HIKOUSHI KOUHOSEI" IN JAPANESE

THE ASPIRATIONS OF YOUR PREDECESSORS ARE PASSED ON TO YOU IN THEM



I NOW DESIGNATE YOU THE 31ST CLASS OF ASCANS!!
THE 218 NEW STUDENTS OF THE CORE SPACE ACADEMY ASTRONAUT DEPARTMENT!!
ASCAN

I TOO... WILL INHERIT IT...
I WILL!!
ASCAN
THIS CONCLUDES THE 315T ASCAN INITIATION CEREMONY
THERE WILL BE A BANQUET AFTER THIS AT 1800, IN ORDER TO DEEPEN THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS
FUCK!!?
FOOD!?
BUT
DAILY MAKER

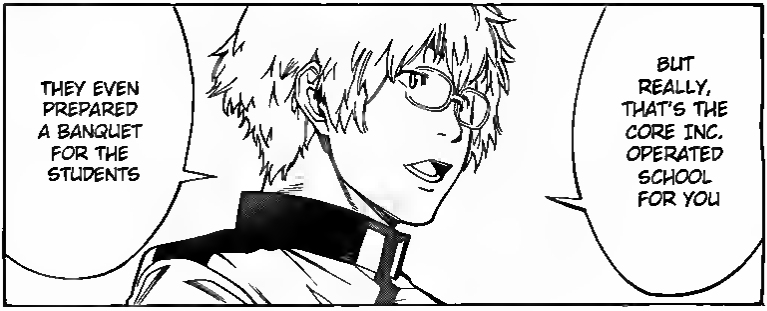
FOOD!!
WHERE'S THE FOOD!?
THEY'LL BRING IT SOON ...
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
ME TOO, ME TOO
PU-HAAAH ~~!
I'M BACK TO LIFE
ARE YOU A GEE-ZER !?

HE'S MAKIME-KUN, I MET HIM TODAY WHEN I GOT HERE
SOME-ONE YOU KNOW, YUUTO?

SUBARU-KUN
AH, MAKIME-KUN!!

HELLO
THIS IS MY ROOMMATE NUMATA-KUN

NICE TO MEET YOU!!
MY ROOMMATE FUJINO GAKU


THEY EVEN PREPARED A BANQUET FOR THE STUDENTS
BUT REALLY, THAT'S THE CORE INC. OPERATED SCHOOL FOR YOU

COURSE?
SPEAKING OF THAT, WHICH COURSE ARE YOU TWO TAKING, SUBARU-KUN?

YOU HAVE TO ELECT THE COURSE BASED ON THE ROLE IN SPACE
THIS IS A CONVERSATION FOR THE FUTURE, BUT IN THIS AS DEPT, EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE ASPIRES TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT

ALSO, WE MUSTN'T FORGET
THERE ARE EVEN SPACE ARTISTS
BUT ALSO MORE NARROWLY BY FIELD OF STUDY, SUCH AS SPACE MEDICINE, SPACE ENGINEERING, OR SPACE CONSTRUCTION
ASTRONAUTS ARE DIVIDED BY GRADE, FROM JUNIOR TO TOP

THE SPECIAL GRADE OF ASTRONAUTS DEEP SPACE ASTRONAVI-GATORS
MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SIRIUS", THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE SKY
THEY'RE A MERE 1% OF ALL ASTRO-NAUTS
THE ELITE WHO EXPLORE THE MOST DANGEROUS, AS YET UNKNOWN REACHES OF DEEP SPACE
ALL OF THE JUPITNEER 11 WERE A PART OF SIRIUS TOO
I ALSO ASPIRE TO JOIN SIRIUS
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SURARU-KUN?
...I

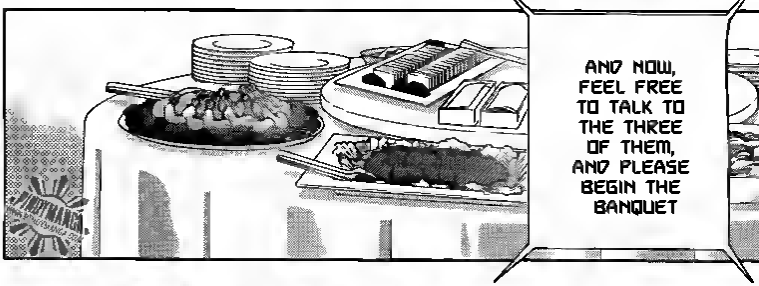
I WILL GO TO SAVE THE JUPITNEER 11... AMAMI KOUSEI!!

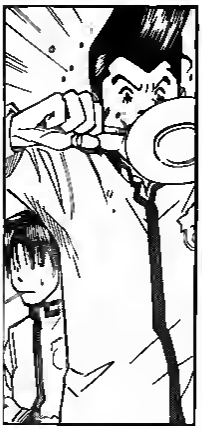
IN THE END, MEN HAVE TO AIM FOR NO. 1!!
THAT'S RIGHT
I WANT TO JOIN SIRIUS TOO
YOU'LL PROBABLY LAUGH IF I TELL YOU
BUT FIRST, LET ME INTRODUCE SOME SPECIAL GUESTS OF THIS BANQUET
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE ASTRONAUT DEPARTMENT BANQUET
SPLENDIDLY CONCLUDING THEIR MISSION, MSC-132
THEY'VE RETURNED FROM MARS AFTER
GUESTS?

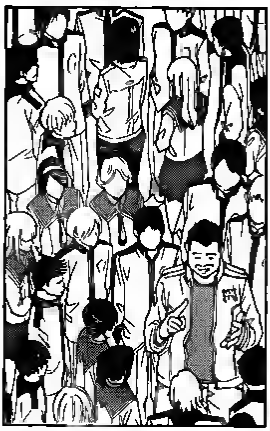
THEY'RE ACTIVE DUTY ASTRO-NAUTS!!
OHHHH!!
TOP GRADE ASTRONAUT MATSURINO KIYOSHI-SAN
LIKEWISE, TOP GRADE ASTRONAUT URASHIMA NORIKO-SAN
MID GRADE ASTRONAUT SAIJOU NOBUAKI-SAN

YOU PROBABLY CAN'T HOLD BACK AS AN ASTRONAUTICS FANATIC
THIS IS AWESOME, YUUTO!!
I'M NOT A FANATIC

REAL ASTRONAUTS...
FIRST TIME I SEE ANY OTHER THAN DAD OR KOUSEI ...

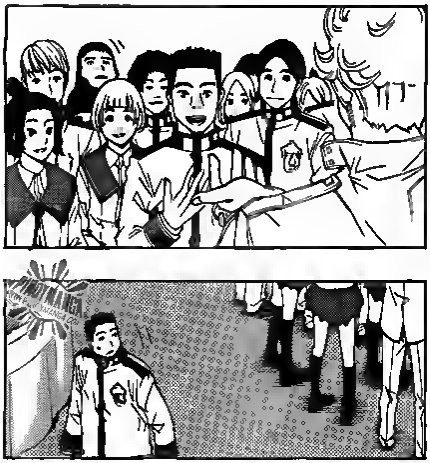

AND NOW, FEEL FREE TO TALK TO THE THREE OF THEM, AND PLEASE BEGIN THE BANQUET

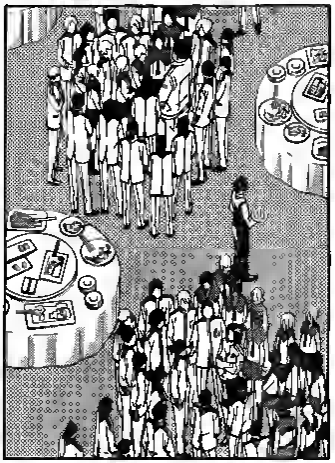


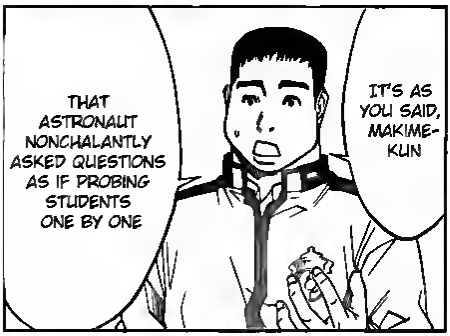


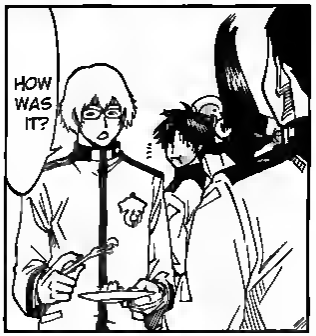
LOOKS LIKE WE SHOULD WAIT A LITTLE
WE CAN'T GET TO THEM
THEY'VE COME BACK FROM MARS, HUH..
BUT REALLY
ANOTHER WORLD
IT'S NOW THE MAIN PROJECT OF CORE INC.
THE M6C MISSION... THE MISSION TO BUILD A SPACE ELEVATOR ON MARS
ELITE, HUH...
IN OTHER WORDS, THOSE THREE THAT ENGAGE IN IT ARE THE ELITE

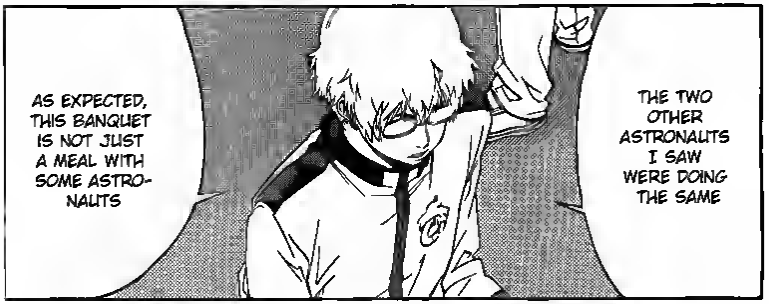
...
SO SPECIAL GRADE KOUSEI WAS THAT AMAZING!?
HMM!? SUCH AMAZING PEOPLE ARE TOP GRADE OR MID GRADE?
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME A LITTLE CONCERNED
...WELL
WHAT'S WRONG, MAKIME-KUN!?
PLEASE GIVE MY COMPLI-MENTS TO THE CHEF WHO MADE THIS
EXCUSE ME!!
REALLY GOOD
MMM ... TRUE
IT'S REALLY TASTY!!
HEY, YUUTO! TRY THIS!! YOU TOO, MAKIME!!
THANK YOU
ERR.. I'LL PASS IT ALONG
YEAH YEAH, I GOT IT



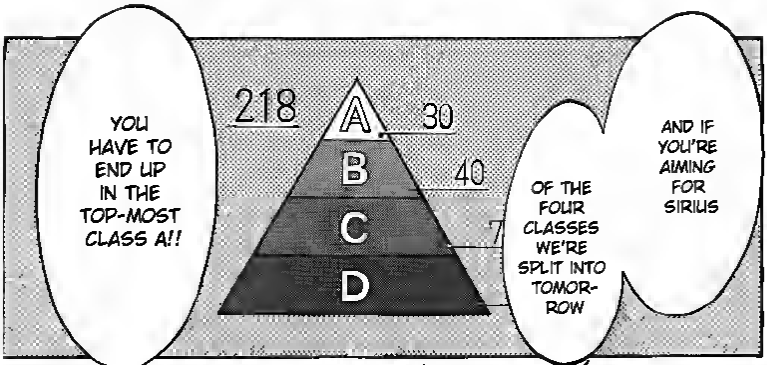


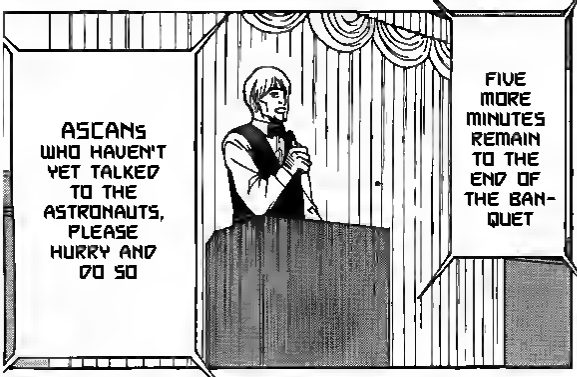

THAT ASTRONAUT NONCHALANTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AS IF PROBING STUDENTS ONE BY ONE
IT'S AS YOU SAID, MAKIME-KUN


HOW WAS IT?

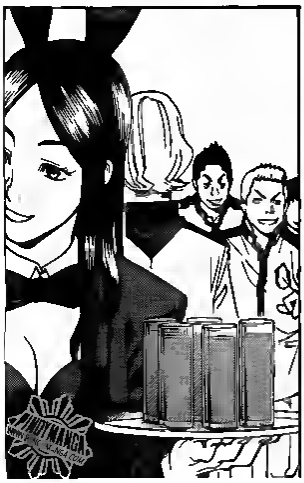

AS EXPECTED, THIS BANQUET IS NOT JUST A MEAL WITH SOME ASTRO-NAUTS
THE TWO OTHER ASTRONAUTS I SAW WERE DOING THE SAME

IT'S AN ASCAN TEST CONDUCTED BY ACTIVE DUTY ASTRONAUTS!
IT'S TO SPLIT US UP INTO CLASSES TOMORROW
A TEST... WHAT FOR?
DON'T THEY DECIDE ON CLASSES BASED ON ACADEMIC AND PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE PRIOR TO ENROLL-MENT?
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THEY'D ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS TODAY
BUT IT MAKES SENSE IF THIS IS THE LAST EXAMI-NATION
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY THEY PUT IT OFF FOR ONE DAY


YOU HAVE TO END UP IN THE TOP-MOST CLASS A!!
218
A
30
B
40
C
D
OF THE FOUR CLASSES WE'RE SPLIT INTO TOMOR-ROW
AND IF YOU'RE AIMING FOR SIRIUS


ASCANs WHO HAVEN'T YET TALKED TO THE ASTRONAUTS, PLEASE HURRY AND DO SO
FIVE MORE MINUTES REMAIN TO THE END OF THE BAN-QUET

WHAT? WHAT?
R-REAL-LY?



LET US GO AS WELL!!

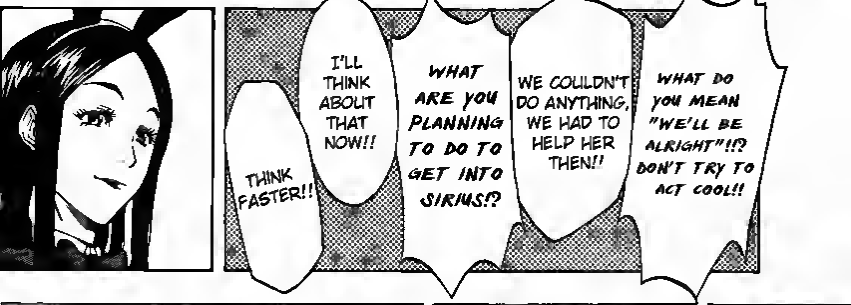
WE HAVE TO TALK TO THEM TOO!!
YEAH

UWA!
KYA!
TCH, YOU'RE IN THE WAY!!
SU-BARU-KUN!!
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, YOU WON'T MAKE IT!!
Y... YES, I'M FINE
UWA, IT'S JUICE
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I'LL BE THERE SOON
GO ON WITHOUT ME

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MYSELF, SO IT'S FINE
AH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO
AND I'LL GET SOMETHING TO WIPE WITH
I'LL HELP YOU CLEAN UP
IT'LL BE QUICKER
LET'S DO IT TOGE-THER
ASCAN
THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE THREE OF YOU FOR TODAY
UH!
I'VE BORROWED RAGS!!
TH-THANK YOU

THE BANQUET IS NOW OVER
OH CRAP!
EH
THE ASTRO-NAUTS LEFT!?
WHAT DO WE DO, YUUTO?
WE DIDN'T EXCHANGE A WORD WITH THEM!!
I- I'M SORRY
BECAUSE OF ME, YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO TALK TO THE ASTRO-NAUTS. .
NO.. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL
LIKE HELL IT'S NOT!!
BUT THIS AND THAT AREN'T RELATED!!
I'LL GO TALK TO THE SUPE-RIORS
P- PLEASE WAIT
WE'LL BE AL-RIGHT

IF WE BECOME ASTRO-NAUTS
WE'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO THEM ANY TIME
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GAKU!!?
ASCII


I'LL THINK ABOUT THAT NOW!!
THINK FASTER!!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO TO GET INTO SIRIUS!?
WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING, WE HAD TO HELP HER THEN!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE'LL BE ALRIGHT"!!? DON'T TRY TO ACT COOL!!

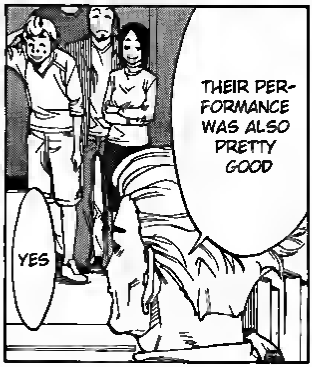
IT SEEMS THAT SUBARU-KUN AND HIS FRIEND DIDN'T GET TO TALK TO THE ASTRONAUTS IN THE END
... YEAH

THAT MAKES TWO DOWN
NO ...
IT'S NOTHING
EH !?
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR ASCANs THIS YEAR?
YES, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO THOROUGHLY PROBE ALL OF THEM
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS RIGHT AFTER COMING BACK FROM MARS
PRINCIPAL

THERE WERE A FEW WHO NOTICED THAT THE BANQUET ALSO DOUBLED AS AN INTER-VIEW
THEY WERE THE SAME AS ANY OTHER YEAR
BUT AS EXPECTED, THERE WEREN'T ANY WHO REALIZED THAT THESE GUYS WEREN'T REAL ASTRONAUTS
WELL, THAT'S WHY THE TRUE AIM OF THE BANQUET
TO ASCERTAIN THE "TRUE" FACE OF THE ASCANs, IS POSSIBLE
FINALLY, I WILL NATURALLY TAKE MANY POINTS OFF THE KIDS WHO PUSHED ME ASIDE

CORE
MSC

AH, BUT


YES
THEIR PERFORMANCE WAS ALSO PRETTY GOOD

DRESS LIKE THIS RIGHT AFTER GETTING BACK FROM MARS
STILL, I DIDN'T THINK I'D HAVE TO

THERE WERE SOME KIDS WHO LOOKED PRETTY INTERESTING
A PASSING MARK FOR BEING THEMSELVES!!
BUT, HOW WILL THE CLASS ASSIGNMENT GO...!?

NEXT CHAPTER IS ALSO EXPANDED TO 30 PAGES!!

To be continued!!

Kida Masashi
#3 Class-A
STAR CHILDREN
スターチルドレン
RANKED IN THE 150S AMONG 218 PEOPLE. BASICALLY, "BOTTOM HALF"...

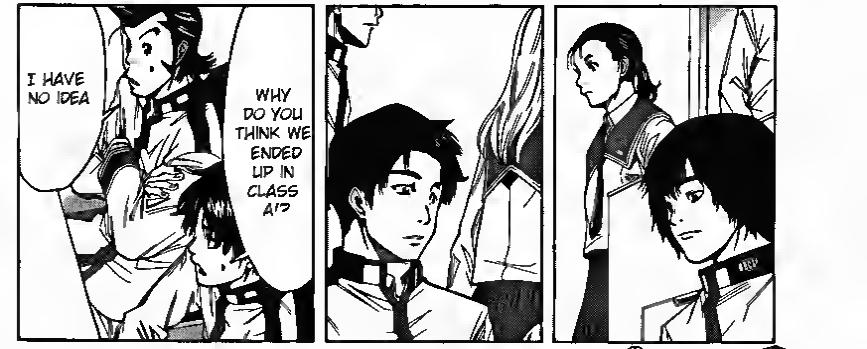
AND GAKU IS... 153RD
SHIT, BETTER THAN ME

SO AMONG ALL 218 IN THE ASTRONAUT DEPARTMENT
YOUR RANK IS 157, YUUTO

...SPEAKING OF WHICH

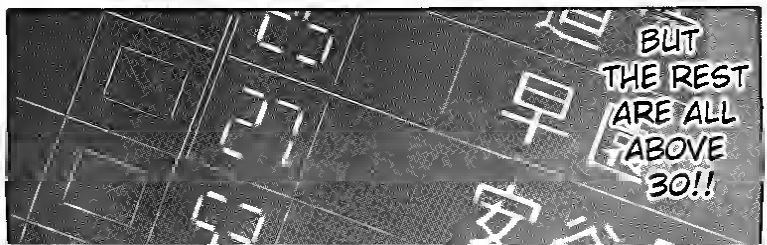
HEHEHE, I'M ABOVE YOU
I- IT'S NOT THAT FAR OFF
BOTH OF US ARE IN THE BOTTOM HALF

ISN'T THIS CLASS A?
YEAH
THE BEST CLASS OUT OF THE FOUR
IS THIS SOME KIND OF A MISTAKE!?


I HAVE NO IDEA
WHY DO YOU THINK WE ENDED UP IN CLASS A!?

SUBARU-KUN, FUJINO-KUN
WE COULDN'T TALK TO THE ASTRONAUTS AT THE BANQUET YESTERDAY, SO I THOUGHT IT WAS OVER
RIGHT. YUUTO, DID YOU CHEAT OR SOMETHING?
HOW WOULD I CHEAT HERE!?
HEY, GOOD MORNING
MAN — IT'S YOU, MAKIME
GOOD MORNING, MAKIME-KUN
DID I DO SOMETHING BAD?
N- NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL
I WAS WORRIED —
WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO TALK TO THE ASTRONAUTS AT THE BANQUET YESTERDAY
BUT STILL, I'M GLAD
THAT BOTH OF YOU WERE ABLE TO GET INTO CLASS A

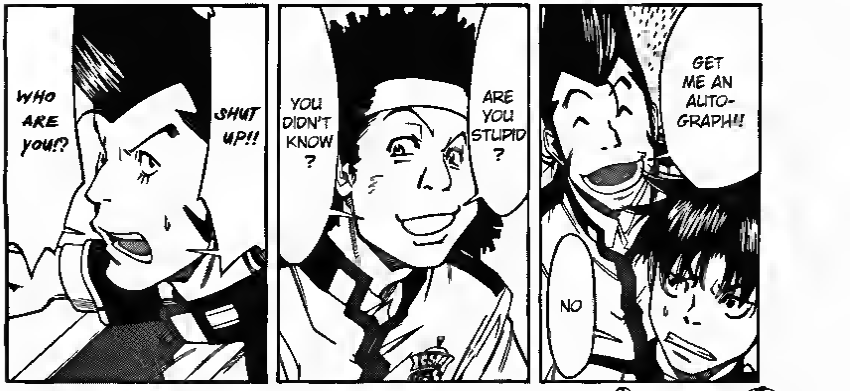
THAT'S TRUE... I'M GLAD I GOT INTO THIS CLASS
...BUT HOW?
AFTER ALL, FOR US WHO AIM FOR SIRIUS
GETTING INTO CLASS A IS INDISPENSABLE
THERE ARE OTHERS IN THE 50S AND THE 70S...
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT ON SCHOLASTIC AND PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS PRIOR ENROLLMENT, DISTRIBUTED TO EVERYONE IN CLASS A THIS MORNING
OUT OF THE TOTAL OF 218 ASCANS, I'M 157TH AND GAKU IS 153RD
THERE'S A TOTAL OF 30 STUDENTS IN CLASS A
AS-A


BUT THE REST ARE ALL ABOVE 30!!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M SORRY
WELL...
MAYBE IT WAS A MISTAKE
MAKIME, WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE BANQUET BEING THE LAST EXAMINATION
AMAZING, SUCH A HUGE DIFFERENCE WITH YUUTO
SHUT UP
HA HA HA
OR MAYBE THEY SAW THROUGH TO MY HIDDEN TALENTS
IT WAS A FLUKE
...LET'S SEE, 1ST?
BY THE WAY, WHAT RANK ARE YOU, MAKINE?
THE GUYS WITH THE SHITTY RANKING!!
HEY HEY, IT'S YOU TWO!!

WHAT KIND OF A TRICK DID YOU USE, SUBARU YUUTO?
DID YOU CRY AND BEG YOUR DADDY SUBARU DAICHI, WHO'S ON THE MOON NOW?

YUUTO, YOU'RE SUBARU DAICHI'S SON!?
WHAT !?


WHO ARE YOU!?
SHUT UP!!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ?
ARE YOU STUPID ?
GET ME AN AUTO-GRAPH!!
NO

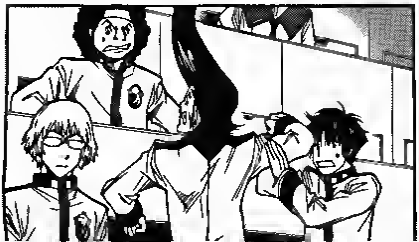
S... 2ND?
I'M KABURAGI SOUSUKE, RANKED 2ND
ME?
YOU'RE LYING!! THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D BE 2ND WITH A FACE LIKE THAT!!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMMENT ON PEOPLE'S FACES!!
I WON'T SAY ANY-THING BAD
SO WITHDRAW FROM CLASS A BEFORE YOU START DRAGGING ME DOWN!!
TCH!
WE GOT INTO CLASS A ON OUR REAL ABILITIES
WHEN TRASH LIKE YOU GETS MIXED IN, IT PISSES ME OFF
NO

I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY AROUND
I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT

IF ALL YOU HAD TO DO IS SAY, NO ONE WOULD EVER FACE ANY HARDSHIP
YEAH, ANYONE CAN SAY ANYTHING THEY WANT

SO I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO DRAG YOU DOWN, KABURAGI-KUN!!

YOU BASTARD



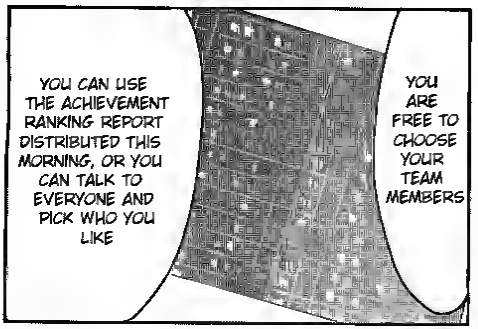
BEEP

OOPS
THANKS FOR WAITING!!
ASCANs !!
IT'S BRO-KEN!!
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS DOOR!? I'M STILL HERE, BUT IT CLOSES ALREADY
AHEM
THANKS FOR WAITING, ASCANs!!
I AM THE INSTRUCTOR IN CHARGE OF YOUR CLASS A, JIGAMI MAYA!!

...
...THIS PERSON
IS THE HOMEROOM TEACHER...
I AM
IN CANOPUS, A TOP GRADE ASTRONAUT !!
CANOPUS
OHHH ——!!
HMPH
"SHOW ME THE MONEY" TYPES, HUH
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN YOUR FUTURE CURRICULUM TO YOU!!
YOU, CLASS A, ARE THE CHOSEN 30 STUDENTS
YOU WILL HAVE A SPECIAL CURRICULUM DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CLASSES
AND FOR THAT, FIRST ...

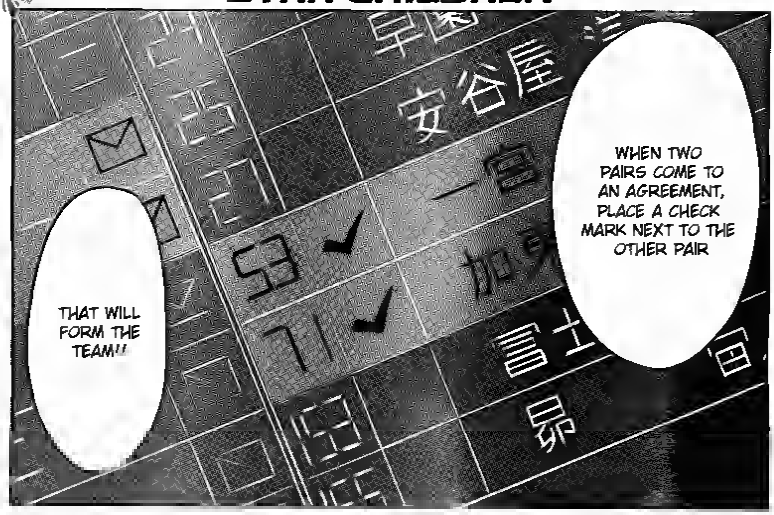
YOU WILL BE SPLIT UP INTO FOUR PERSON TEAMS!!

FOUR PERSON TEAMS!?

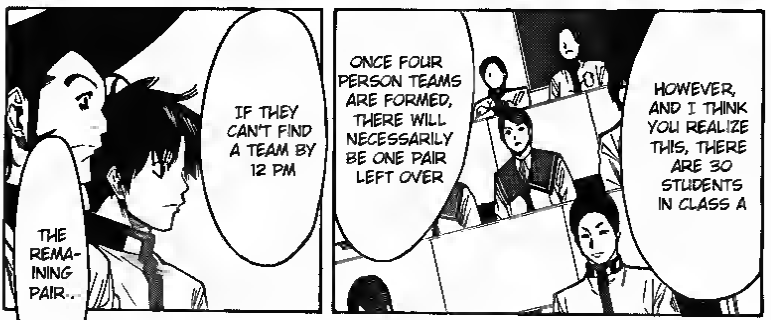

YOU CAN USE THE ACHIEVEMENT RANKING REPORT DISTRIBUTED THIS MORNING, OR YOU CAN TALK TO EVERYONE AND PICK WHO YOU LIKE
YOU ARE FREE TO CHOOSE YOUR TEAM MEMBERS

FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES AND TRAIN WITHIN YOUR TEAMS

SO I'VE SET UP SOME PAIRS IN ADVANCE
HOWEVER, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOME TEAMS WON'T GET FORMED DUE TO MUTUAL INTERFERENCE
3RD AND 4TH ARE ANOTHER PAIR
IN OTHER WORDS, THOSE RANKED 1ST AND 2ND ARE A PAIR
I'VE PAIRED YOU UP BASED ON YOUR RANKING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
USE THIS RANKING TABLE FOR THAT AS WELL!!
THE WAY TO DECIDE THE TEAMS
..WHICH MEANS
GEH... GAKU'S RANK IS ABOVE ME, SO I CAN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING BACK TO HIM
GEH, I HAVE TO PAIR UP WITH YUUTO


WHEN TWO PAIRS COME TO AN AGREEMENT, PLACE A CHECK MARK NEXT TO THE OTHER PAIR
THAT WILL FORM THE TEAM!!

YOU HAVE UNTIL 12 PM TO DECIDE ON YOUR TEAMS
UNTIL THEN YOU CAN ALL MOVE ABOUT FREELY


HOWEVER, AND I THINK YOU REALIZE THIS, THERE ARE 30 STUDENTS IN CLASS A
ONCE FOUR PERSON TEAMS ARE FORMED, THERE WILL NECESSARILY BE ONE PAIR LEFT OVER
IF THEY CAN'T FIND A TEAM BY 12 PM
THE REMA-INING PAIR..

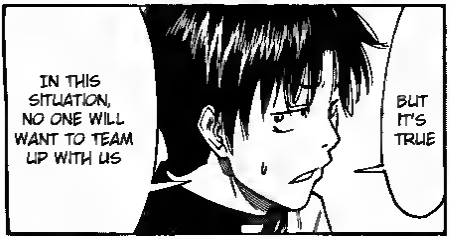
WHA ...
FOR REAL!?
EXPELLED ...
THAT'S SUDDEN ...
THE EXPLA-NATION IS OVER !!
DISMI-SSED !!
HAHA HAHA
HEY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, YUUTO?
WILL BE EXPELLED
FROM CLASS A!!

THIS IS PRETTY SIMPLE!!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO BE WORRIED ABOUT BEING EXPELLED!!
EVERYONE, PLEASE LISTEN UP!!
YOU CAN SEE IT FROM THE RANKING DATA
FOR SOME REASON, THERE ARE TWO STUDENTS IN THIS CLASS WHO STAND OUT WITH THEIR LOW RANKING
THEY ARE THESE TWO!!
WHA...!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET EXPELLED, AND SINCE WE WILL TRAIN IN TEAMS FROM NOW ON
THERE'S NO ADVANTAGE IN TEAMING UP WITH LOW-RANKED GUYS

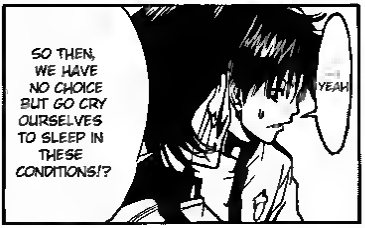
IN THAT CASE, IF WE EXCLUDE THESE TWO FROM THE START AND FORM TEAMS
OUR CLASS A WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING EXPELLED, AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO CALMLY FACE THE TRAINING THAT'S COMING UP
KABU-RAGI, YOU BAS-TARD!!
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE
NOT A BAD IDEA
YUP
WHY ARE THOSE TWO IN CLASS A TO BEGIN WITH?
H... HEY ...
IT SEEMS WE'RE ALL IN AGREEMENT OVERALL
AND NOW, EVERY-ONE
LET'S CAREFULLY PICK OUR TEAMS
AL-RIGHT, LET'S GO
WHO DO WE WANT TO TEAM UP WITH?

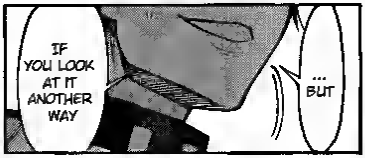
THERE'S NO ONE WHO'D WANT TO TEAM UP WITH LOW-RANKED GUYS LIKE YOU
HEY HEY, ARE YOU STUPID?
TEAM UP WITH US!!
H- HEY, MAKIME!!
DID YOU FORGET ALREADY !?
HUH !?
I DIDN'T ASK YOU!!
SHUT UP!!
LET'S GO, MAKIME!
Y- YEAH
THAT'S HOW IT IS, AND I CAN'T DECIDE THIS ON MY OWN
I'M SORRY
MAKIME AND I ARE A PAIR
I'M RANKED 2ND
SAY SOMETHING BACK AT HIM!!
AND WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING, YUUTO!?
THAT KABURAGI BASTARD ...
GNN NNN

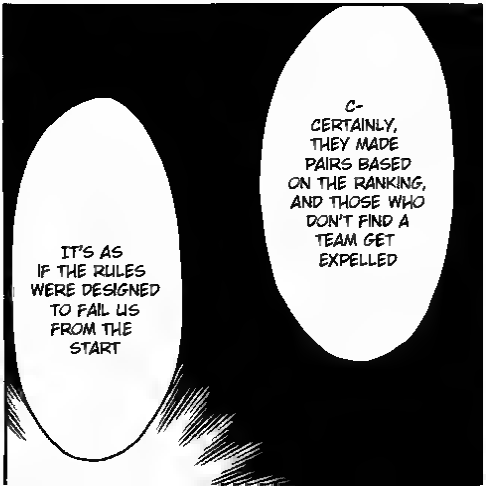
I THINK IT'S JUST AS KABURAGI-KUN SAID
NO...


IN THIS SITUATION, NO ONE WILL WANT TO TEAM UP WITH US
BUT IT'S TRUE

EVEN YOU, YUMTO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?


SO THEN, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT GO CRY OURSELVES TO SLEEP IN THESE CONDITIONS!?
YEAH

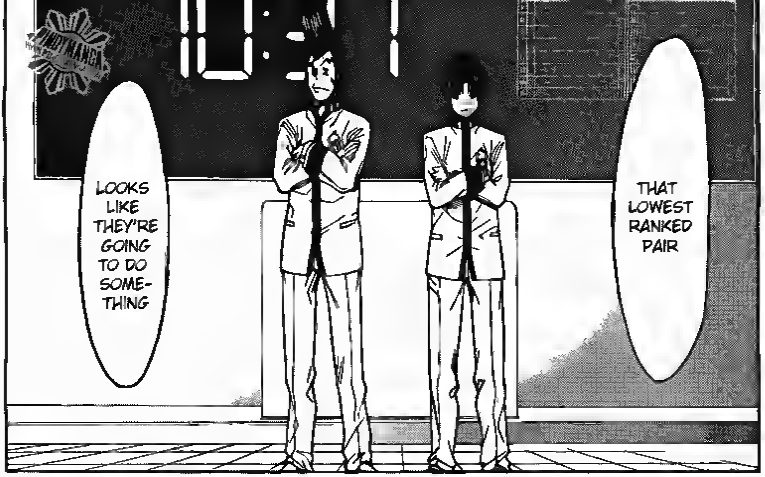

IF YOU LOOK AT IT ANOTHER WAY
... BUT

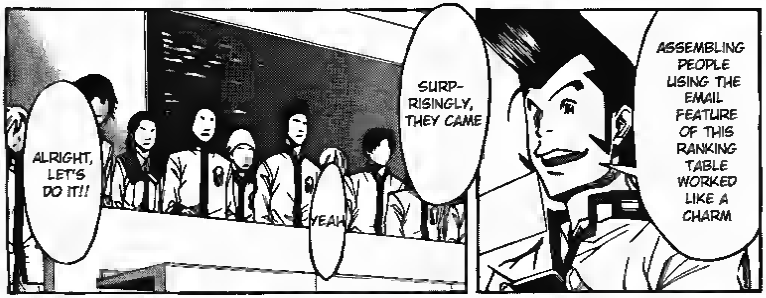

C-CERTAINLY, THEY MADE PAIRS BASED ON THE RANKING, AND THOSE WHO DON'T FIND A TEAM GET EXPELLED
IT'S AS IF THE RULES WERE DESIGNED TO FAIL US FROM THE START

ISN'T THIS OUR CHANCE?
WE DON'T BELONG IN CLASS A BEGIN WITH, IF YOU ONLY LOOK AT THE RANKING
AND WE DON'T KNOW THE REASON WE ENDED UP IN CLASS A
CH...
CHAN-CE!?
THAT MUCH IS TRUE
SO WHY?
LIKE I SAID, WE DON'T KNOW
WHAT!?
IT'S USELESS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WE DON'T KNOW
BUT THE REALITY IS THAT WE ARE IN CLASS A

THEREFORE, WHETHER WE USE THIS CHANCE OR LOSE IT IS UP TO US...
RIGHT?
HE... HEHE
THAT'S SO TRUE!!
I ALSO WANT TO GIVE ONE HELL OF A SURPRISE TO THAT BASTARD KABURAGI!
BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
AFTER BEING PREJUDICED LIKE THAT BY KABURAGI, NO ONE WILL EVEN TALK TO US
.. IN THAT CASE
WE'LL START SOMETHING UP OUR-SELVES

WOULD YOU TEAM UP WITH US?
MAKIME-KUN, KABURAGI-KUN
RAN-KED 9TH AND 10TH?
HMPH, OUT OF THE QUESTION
IT'S ALRIGHT!! THERE ARE STILL SOME HIGHER RANKERS LEFT
BUT IT WOULD BE SAFER TO GO TO SOMEONE RANKED LOWER
TCH! NO ONE DECENT IS COMING!
THAT 3RD-4TH PAIR DARED TO PUT OUR PROPOSAL ON HOLD
HMM, AN EMAIL!?
HEY, LOOK AT THIS ...


LOWEST RANKED
THAT LOWEST RANKED PAIR
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO DO SOME-THING


ASSEMBLING PEOPLE USING THE EMAIL FEATURE OF THIS RANKING TABLE WORKED LIKE A CHARM
SURP-RISINGLY, THEY CAME
YEAH
ALRIGHT, LET'S DO IT!!

THAN TO ANNOUNCE THE CONDITIONS FOR A PAIR WE'D WANT TO TEAM UP WITH

EVERYONE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING

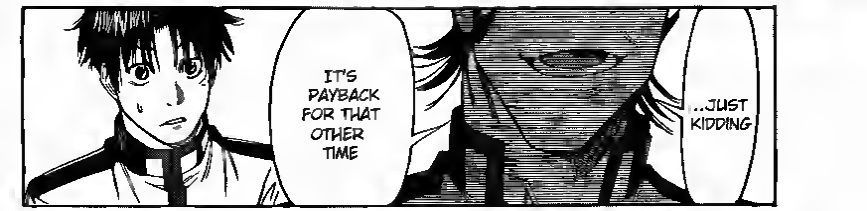
THE REASON WE ASSEMBLED YOU IS NONE OTHER

HEY, WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT!?
DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITION!?
IS THE PAIR WHO WOULD AIM TO GO TO JUPITER WITH US
WHO WE WANT TO TEAM UP WITH
JU-JUPITER!?
IS THIS A JOKE!?
HEY, DON'T MESS AROUND!!
AFTER THE ACCIDENT WITH THE JUPITNEER, ALL MANNED SPACE EXPLORATION MISSIONS BEYOND MARS HAVE BEEN FROZEN!!

SAID BACK THEN, "WE WON'T GIVE UP"
BUT AMAMI KOUSEI
WE KNOW THAT
HOWEVER DIFFICULT AND DESPERATE THE SITUATION MIGHT BE
I WILL GO TO JUPITER AND RESCUE THE JUPITNEER 11
I UNDER-STAND YOUR FEELINGS VERY WELL, SUBARU-KUN
TO THINK THAT THEY'RE ALIVE...
YEAH, BUT COME ON...

BUT WITH THE MAIN ENGINE DAMAGED
EVEN IF THE BACKUP IS ONLINE AND IS ABLE TO SUPPORT LIFE FUNCTION, IT'S UNNATURAL THAT EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMUNICATION AND NO SIGNAL
I UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE TO BELIEVE THAT THE JUPITNEER II SURVIVED
BUT TO ACT BASED ON YOUR FAITH IN SOMETHING WITH SUCH LOW PROBABILITY
IS JUST A GAMBLE
WE ARE THOSE WHO AIM TO BECOME ASTRONAUTS
IF WE ACT ON OUR HOPES, NO MATTER HOW MANY LIVES WE HAVE, THEY WON'T BE ENOUGH
HOWEVER ...

GAKU!?
I THINK THAT WHAT MAKIME SAYS IS CORRECT


IT'S PAYBACK FOR THAT OTHER TIME
..JUST KIDDING

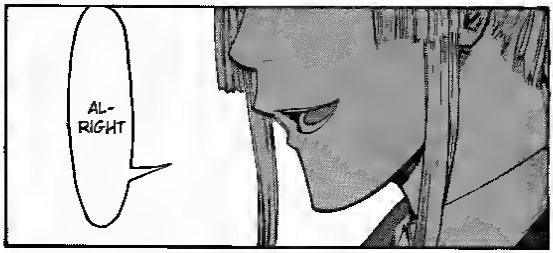
ISN'T WRONG EITHER
WHAT YUUTO WANTS TO SAY

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE BIGGEST PART OF THIS CLASS IS
AIMING TO JOIN SIRIUS, RIGHT?
SIRIUS IS
THE VANGUARD THAT GOES TO PLANETS OR DEEP SPACE REGIONS THAT NO ONE HAS GONE TO BEFORE
FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BE IN SIRIUS, SAYING THINGS LIKE "I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE, SO I DON'T KNOW"
OR "THE PROBABILITY IS LOW SO WE MUSTN'T" IS OUT OF THE QUESTION

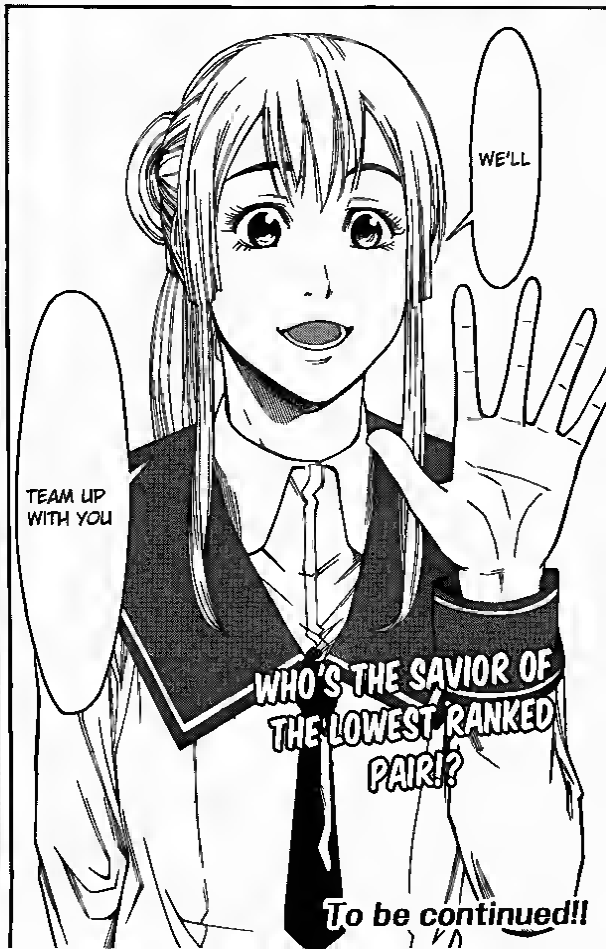
MA-
KIME
YUUTO UNDERSTANDS WHAT YOU'RE SAYING PERFECTLY
BUT WE
WE WANT TO TEAM UP WITH THE GUYS WHO WANT TO BE IN SIRIUS
THE REAL SIRIUS, WHERE "WE WON'T KNOW UNLESS WE GO THERE!"

WE COULDN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER WAY BUT THIS
IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE UP
BUT WE WANT THE PAIR WE TEAM UP WITH TO SHARE OUR GOALS
ASCAN
AND SO
IF YOU'RE HERE, WE WANT YOU TO COME FOR-WARD
WH-WHAT DO WE DO?
Y-YEAH
WELL, BUT YOU KNOW
IT'S PRO-BABLY USE-LESS
HAH, THAT'S RIGHT
THERE'S NO WAY THERE'D BE SOMEONE TO COME FORWARD

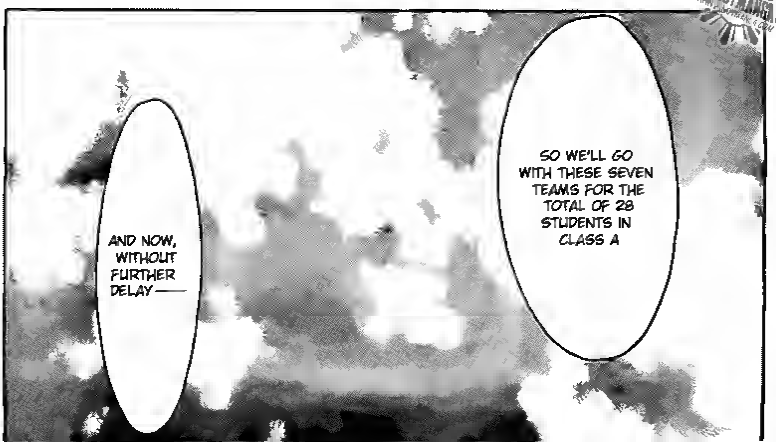
11


AL-
RIGHT

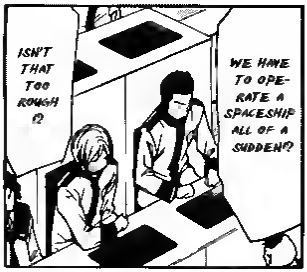
THE INTERVIEW WITH KIDA-SENSEI IS ON THE NEXT PAGE!!

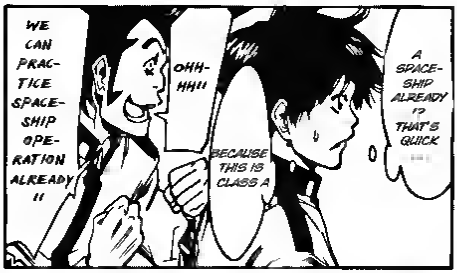

WE'LL
TEAM UP WITH YOU
WHO'S THE SAVIOR OF THE LOWEST RANKED PAIR!?
To be continued!!

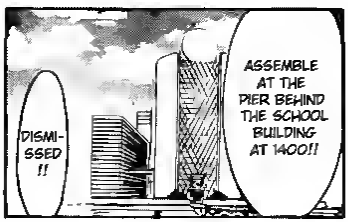
THE CLASS IS SETTLED. THE TEAMS ARE SETTLED TOO. SO WHAT'S NEXT...?

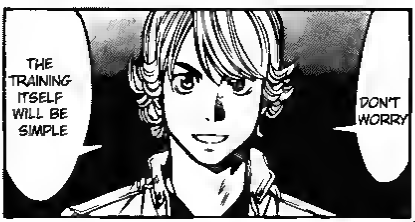


WE'LL TRAIN USING A SPACESHIP SIMULATOR!!


ISN'T THAT TOO ROUGH !?
WE HAVE TO OPERATE A SPACESHIP ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

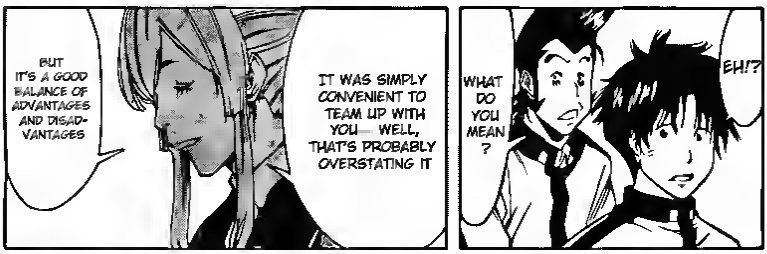

WE CAN PRACTICE SPACESHIP OPERATION ALREADY !!
OHH-HH!!
BECAUSE THIS IS CLASS A
A SPACESHIP ALREADY !? THAT'S QUICK

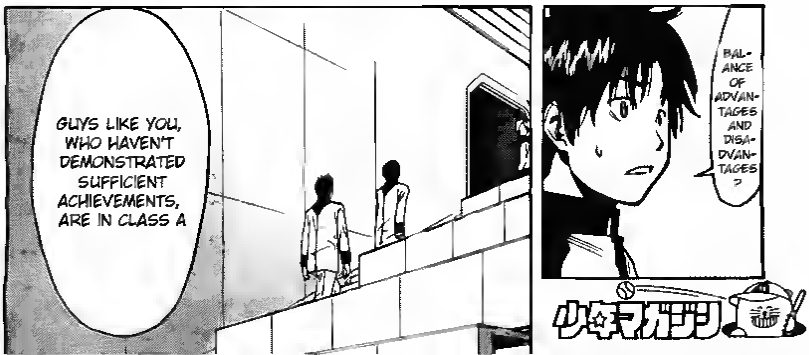

DISMISSED !!
ASSEMBLE AT THE PIER BEHIND THE SCHOOL BUILDING AT 1400!!

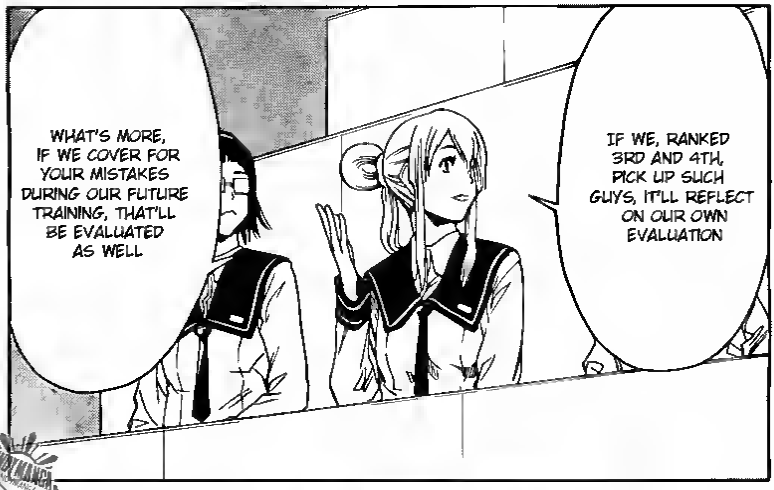

THE TRAINING ITSELF WILL BE SIMPLE
DON'T WORRY

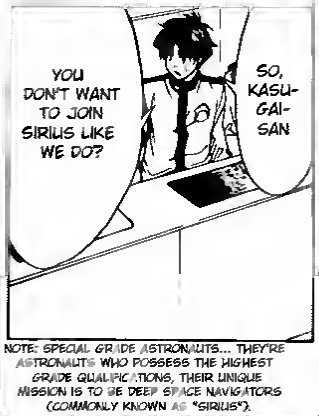
KASUGAI-SAN
SHIBATA-SAN
THANK YOU FOR TEAMING UP WITH US
WE WERE ABLE TO STAY IN CLASS A THANKS TO YOU
AND YOU'RE A HIGH RANKED 3RD AND 4TH PAIR TOO
HONESTLY, I DIDN'T THINK THERE'D BE ANYONE WHO'D SUPPORT OUR VIEWS
THE LOOK ON KABURAGI'S FACE WHEN WE JOINED WAS...
YOU REALLY SAVED US!!
NOT REA-LLY

WE DON'T REALLY SUPPORT YOUR VIEWS OR ANYTHING

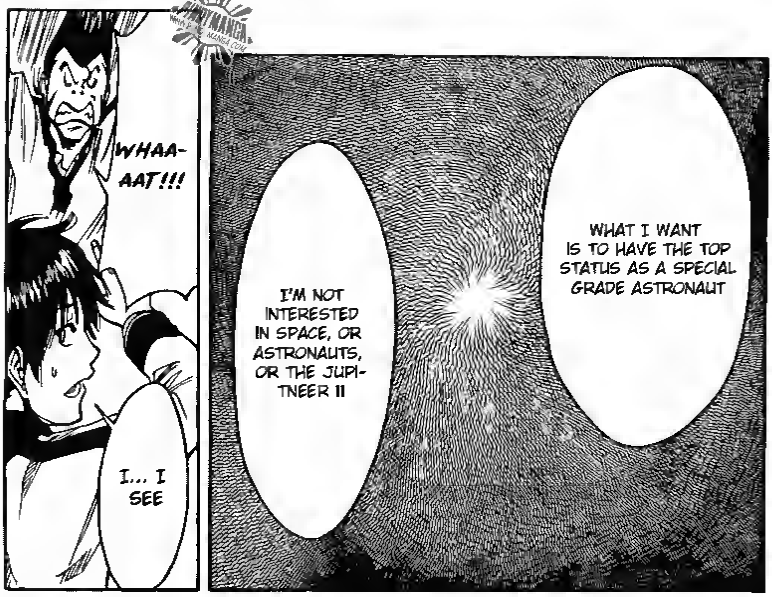

BUT IT'S A GOOD BALANCE OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES
IT WAS SIMPLY CONVENIENT TO TEAM UP WITH YOU— WELL, THAT'S PROBABLY OVERSTATING IT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EH!?

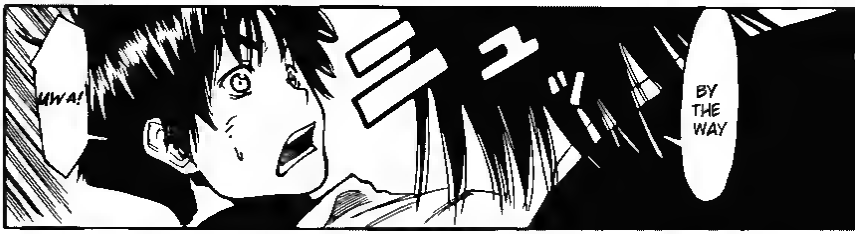

GUYS LIKE YOU, WHO HAVEN'T DEMONSTRATED SUFFICIENT ACHIEVEMENTS, ARE IN CLASS A
BALANCE OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES?

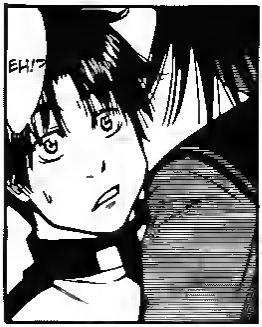

WHAT'S MORE, IF WE COVER FOR YOUR MISTAKES DURING OUR FUTURE TRAINING, THAT'LL BE EVALUATED AS WELL
IF WE, RANKED 3RD AND 4TH, PICK UP SUCH GUYS, IT'LL REFLECT ON OUR OWN EVALUATION



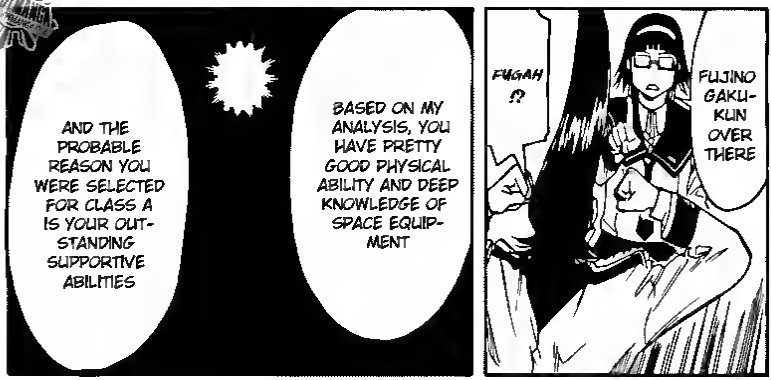
NOTE: SPECIAL GRADE ASTRONAUTS... THEY'RE ASTRONAUTS WHO POSSESS THE HIGHEST GRADE QUALIFICATIONS, THEIR UNIQUE MISSION IS TO BE DEEP SPACE NAVIGATORS (COMMONLY KNOWN AS "SIRIUS").

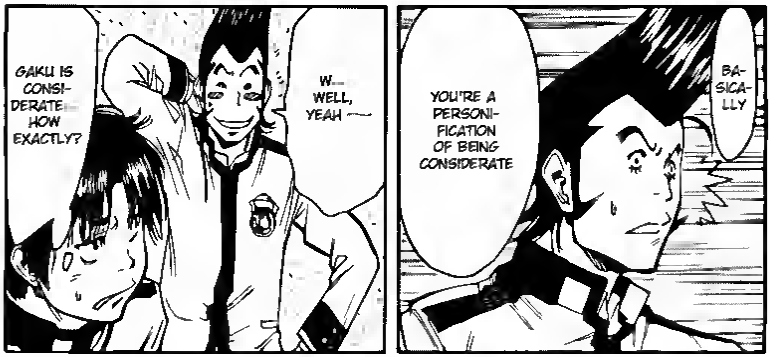

WHAA-AAT!!!
I... I SEE
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SPACE, OR ASTRONAUTS, OR THE JUPITNEER II
WHAT I WANT IS TO HAVE THE TOP STATUS AS A SPECIAL GRADE ASTRONAUT

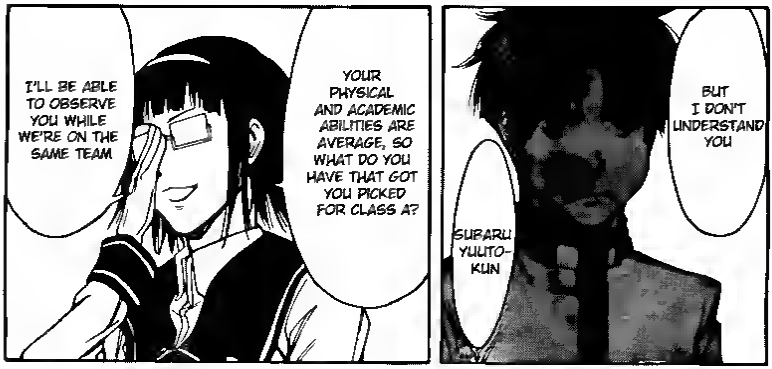

UWA!
BY THE WAY


EH!?

SUBARU YUUTO-KUN
YOU INTEREST ME

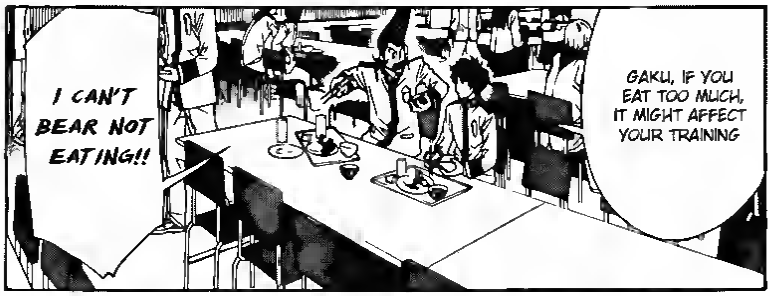

FUJINO GAKU-KUN OVER THERE
FUGAH !?
BASED ON MY ANALYSIS, YOU HAVE PRETTY GOOD PHYSICAL ABILITY AND DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF SPACE EQUIP-MENT
AND THE PROBABLE REASON YOU WERE SELECTED FOR CLASS A IS YOUR OUT-STANDING SUPPORTIVE ABILITIES


BA-SICA-LLY
YOU'RE A PERSONI-FICATION OF BEING CONSIDERATE
W... WELL, YEAH ——
GAKU IS CONSI-DERATE... HOW EXACTLY?

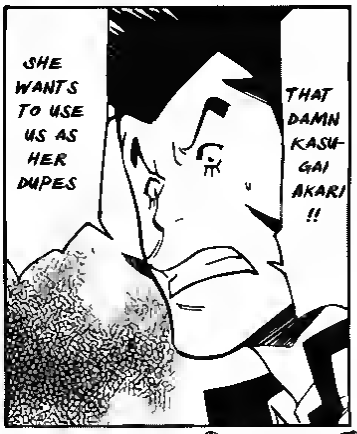

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU
SUBARU YUUTO-KUN
YOUR PHYSICAL AND ACADEMIC ABILITIES ARE AVERAGE, SO WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT GOT YOU PICKED FOR CLASS A?
I'LL BE ABLE TO OBSERVE YOU WHILE WE'RE ON THE SAME TEAM

GOBBLE
GOBBLE

CAFETER


I CAN'T BEAR NOT EATING!!
GAKU, IF YOU EAT TOO MUCH, IT MIGHT AFFECT YOUR TRAINING

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, YUUTO!?
BUT SHE DID SAVE US WITH THAT


SHE WANTS TO USE US AS HER DUPES
THAT DAMN KASUGAI AKARI !!

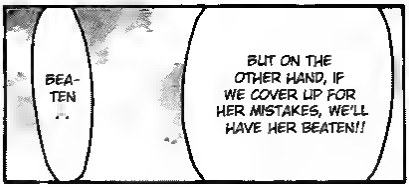
HOW THEY SAID ALL THAT ABOUT US!?
IN ANY CASE, YUUTO, YOU DON'T THINK ANYTHING ABOUT

I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED
WELL, AT FIRST I WAS PISSED OFF TOO, BUT
...SOME-HOW
SOME-HOW?
HUH-UH!?
WHAT'S SO SURPRI-SING!?
EVEN IF THEY'RE AIMING TO BE ASTRONAUTS JUST LIKE US
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHOSE WAY OF THINKING IS SO DIFFERENT FROM YOURS OR MINE

EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I LISTENED TO MY DAD AND KOUSEI TALK ABOUT SPACE
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THEM AT ALL, BUT I WANTED TO JOIN THEIR CONVERSATIONS TOO
SO I THOUGHT I'D BECOME AN ASTRONAUT SO I COULD JOIN IN WITH THEM

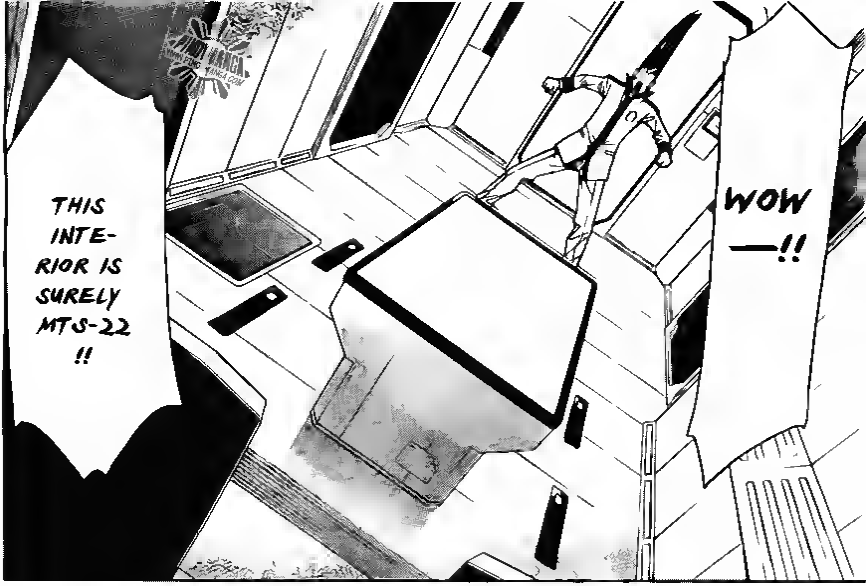
I THINK THAT GIRL'S JUST UNUSUAL
NO NO

TO THINK THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT WHO WANT TO BECOME ASTRONAUTS
BUT, LIKE KASUGAI-SAN, WHO'S NOT INTERESTED IN SPACE OR ASTRONAUTS

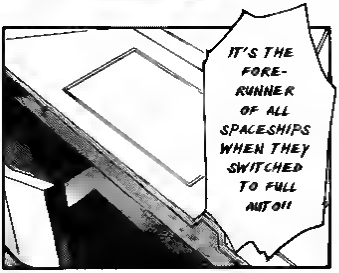

BEA-TEN
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE COVER UP FOR HER MISTAKES, WE'LL HAVE HER BEATEN!!

I KNOW, RIGHT?
CERTAINLY, I'M ANGRY THAT SHE'D USE US AS HER DUPES

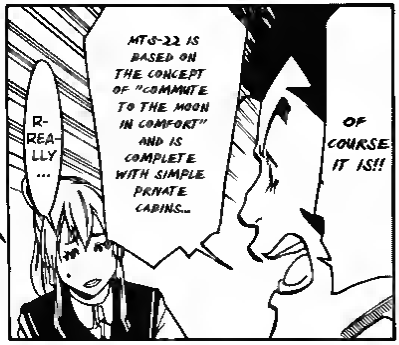
CORE
OHHH !!
THIS IS AWE-SOME!!
WOW, BIG ...
THE SIMULATORS WE'LL BE USING FOR TRAINING ARE INSIDE THIS SHIP
EACH TEAM, GET INSIDE THE SIMULATOR ASSIGNED TO YOU!!

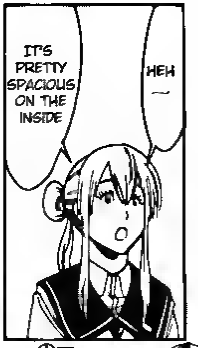

WOW —!!
THIS INTE-RIOR IS SURELY MTS-22 !!

THAT'S A SPACE MACHINERY MANIAC FOR YOU
OF COURSE, SINCE WE'RE UNDER THE FORCE OF GRAVITY, THE FUNCTIONS ON THE CEILING AREN'T INCLUDED

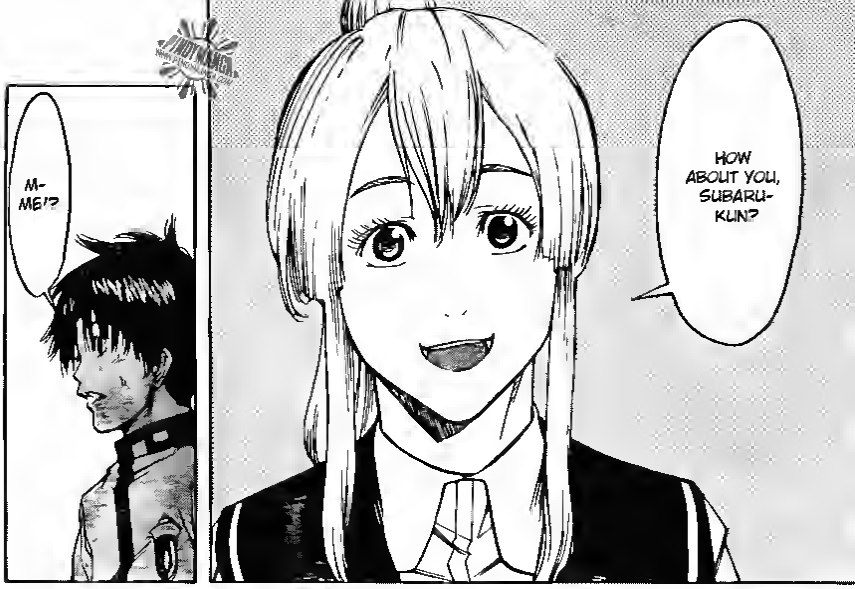

IT'S THE FORE-RUNNER OF ALL SPACESHIPS WHEN THEY SWITCHED TO FULL AUTO!!

ALL TEAMS ARE ABOARD

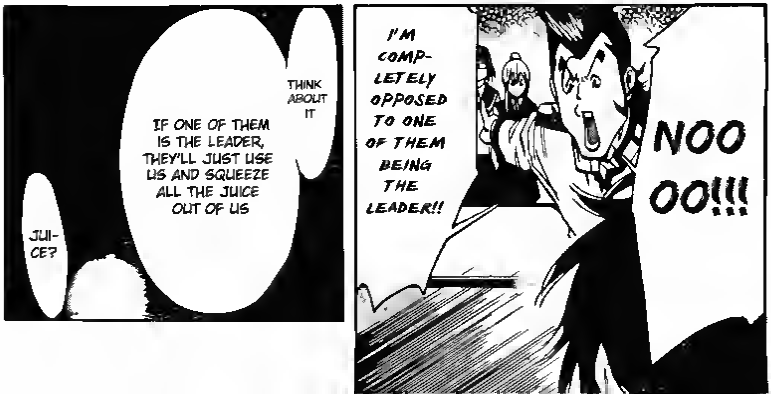

R-REALLY ...
MTS-22 IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF "COMMUTE TO THE MOON IN COMFORT" AND IS COMPLETE WITH SIMPLE PRIVATE CABINS...
OF COURSE IT IS!!

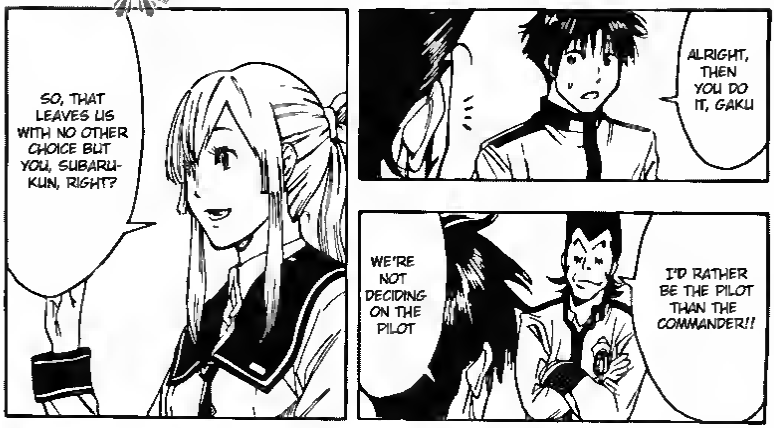

IT'S PRETTY SPACIOUS ON THE INSIDE
HEH —

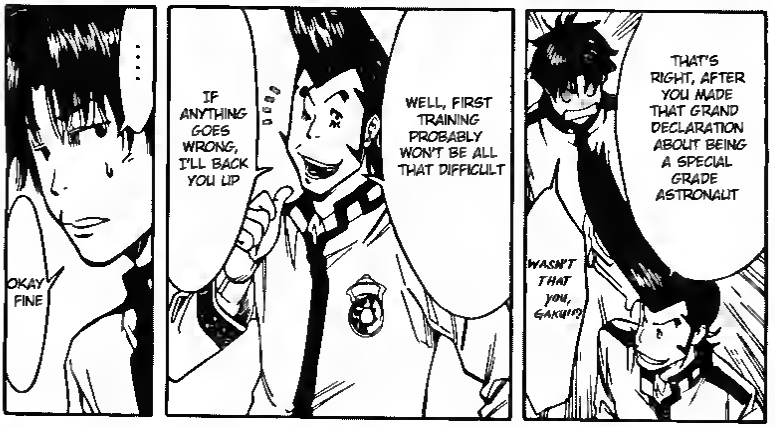
FIRST, EACH TEAM IS TO DECIDE ON THE LEADER!!
ONCE YOU'VE DECIDED, ENTER THE LEADER'S NAME IN THE TERMINAL IN THE CENTER. AT THAT TIME, THE TRAINING WILL BEGIN.
IT MEANS THE LEADER OF THE SPACESHIP SIMULATION
THE COMMANDER, IN OTHER WORDS
SO WHO'LL BE THE LEADER?
LEADER?

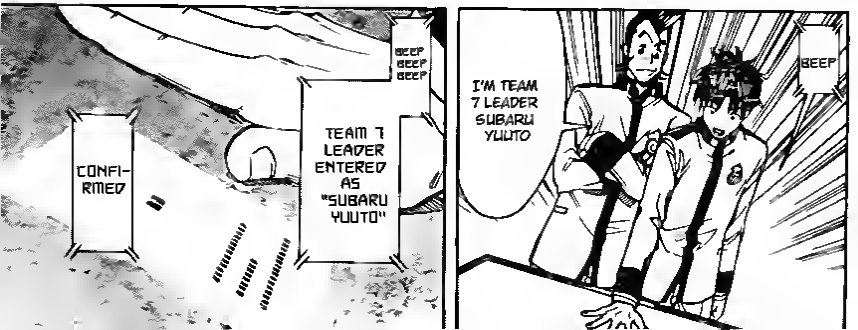

HOW ABOUT YOU, SUBARU-KUN?
M-ME!?

BUT YOU'RE THE SON OF THE JUPITNEER PROJECT LEADER SUBARU DAICHI-SAN
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE QUALIFIED
NO, IT'S A BIG ROLE FOR ME...
IN THAT CASE, SHOULDN'T WE PICK SOMEONE WITH BETTER RESULTS THAN ME, LIKE KASUGAI-SAN OR SHIBATA-SAN...?


NOO OO!!!
I'M COMP-LETELY OPPOSED TO ONE OF THEM BEING THE LEADER!!
THINK ABOUT IT
IF ONE OF THEM IS THE LEADER, THEY'LL JUST USE US AND SQUEEZE ALL THE JUICE OUT OF US
JUI-CE?


SO, THAT LEAVES US WITH NO OTHER CHOICE BUT YOU, SUBARU-KUN, RIGHT?
ALRIGHT, THEN YOU DO IT, GAKU
I'D RATHER BE THE PILOT THAN THE COMMANDER!!
WE'RE NOT DECIDING ON THE PILOT


OKAY FINE
IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, I'LL BACK YOU UP
WELL, FIRST TRAINING PROBABLY WON'T BE ALL THAT DIFFICULT
THAT'S RIGHT, AFTER YOU MADE THAT GRAND DECLARATION ABOUT BEING A SPECIAL GRADE ASTRONAUT
WASN'T THAT YOU, GAKU?!


BEEP BEEP BEEP
TEAM 7 LEADER ENTERED AS "SUBARU YUUTO"
CONFI-RMED
I'M TEAM 7 LEADER SUBARU YUUTO
BEEP

ガッ
シャン
WHAT HAPPENED!?
!!
ガン
ガン
ウォー

TEAM 7 LOCK ENGAGED
WE WILL NOW BEGIN ISOLATION ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR DEEP SPACE NAVIGATORS!!
ISO-LATION ENVIRON-MENT TRAINING?
WHILE INSIDE, YOU WILL COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS THAT ARE GIVEN TO YOU
WE WERE DE-CEIVED!!
SO IT'S NOT SPACESHIP OPERATION TRAINING!!

WE'RE [illegible] TO [illegible] TWO WEEKS INSIDE HERE!?
THE TIME PERIOD IS TWO WEEKS
YOU ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FROM GOING OUTSIDE AT THAT TIME
SOME MINIMUM MATERIALS WATER, AND FOOD
IN ORDER FOR YOU TO SPEND TWO WEEKS, WE'VE PREPARED
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY SUCH AS AN INJURY OR ILLNESS
AS AN EXCEPTION
YOU CAN'T OPEN THE EXIT DOOR UNTIL YOUR TRAINING HAS BEEN COMPLETED!!

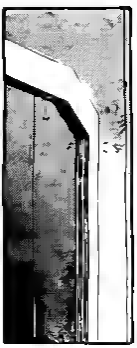
IF YOU PRESS IT IN AN EMERGENCY, THE DOOR WILL OPEN
PRESS THE SQUARE BUTTON ON THE SIDE OF THE DOOR
THIS ONE?
BEEP
UH, WAIT, GAKU-KUN!!
HUH!? IT DIDN'T OPEN
ONLY THE LEADER HAS THE RIGHT TO OPEN THAT DOOR!!
WHAT THE ...
HOW-EVER

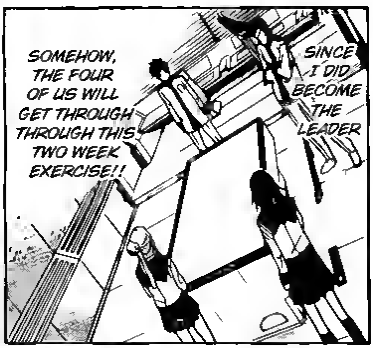
WHATEVER THE SITUATION MAY BE, ONCE THE DOOR IS OPENED, ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WILL BE EXPELLED FROM CLASS A
!!
EVERY-ONE!?
WE WILL NOT PERMIT ANY CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP WHILE THE EXERCISE IS IN PROG-RESS!!
THE LEADER
THE TEAM'S FATE IS ALL IN THE HANDS OF THE LEADER
THAT'S ME?
EVERYTHING IS IN YUUTO'S HANDS!
To be continued!!

THE ISOLATION ENVIRONMENT TRAINING BEGINS UNEXPECTEDLY. BUT THERE'S A SUDDEN WORRY FOR YUUTO...

IS THE LEADER ?
YUUTO
WILL THIS BE AL-RIGHT ?
HOW LITTLE TRUST YOU HAVE IN ME
IT SHOULD BE AL-RIGHT
ALL HE HAS IS THE RIGHT TO OPEN THE DOOR
BUT STILL... I'M THE LEADER
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DECIDED LIKE THAT..

WILL IT WORK OUT...
WITH THE FOUR OF US FOR TWO WEEKS!?




SOMEHOW, THE FOUR OF US WILL GET THROUGH THROUGH THIS TWO WEEK EXERCISE!!
SINCE I DID BECOME THE LEADER

WELL, WHAT'S THE POINT OF GETTING WEAK-SPIRITED BEFORE WE ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING?

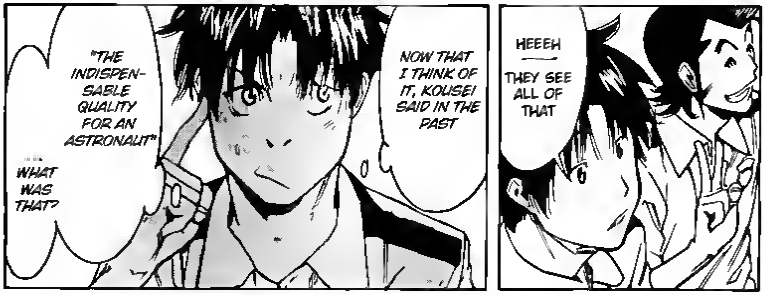
THIS CABIN IS THE STORAGE FOR FOOD AND CLOTNING
DAY 6 FOOD
OUR FOOD SUPPLIES ARE DIVIDED BY DAY
NO.1
THE CLOTHES FOR YOUR TRAINING ARE STORED IN BOX NO. 4
NO.4
FIRST CHANGE INTO THEM
HUH? IT WON'T OPEN?
ガガガ
ALRIGHT, WE'LL GO CHANGE OVER THERE
IS THIS IT?

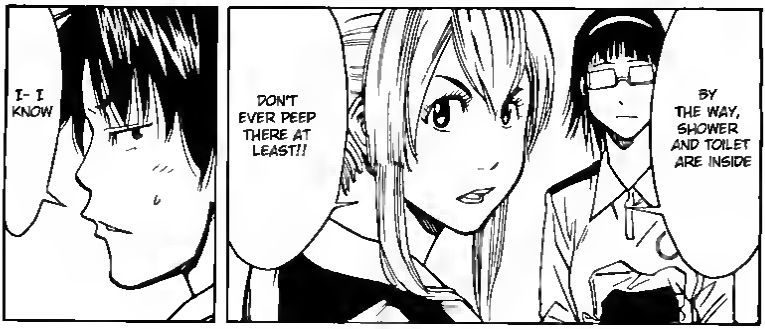
AH!!
I ALMOST FORGOT
GRE-AT!!
YUUTO, LET'S GO LOOK AROUND OTHER CABINS
ASCAN
EEP
WHAT'S THIS CABIN FOR?

I- I'M SORRY!!
HEHEHE IT WAS A NICE VIEW
TH- THE STIMULUS WAS TOO STRONG

I'M TRULY SORRY
IT'S NOT LIKE WE PLANNED TO PEEP ON PURPOSE ...
IT'S ALRIGHT
YOU CAN EXPECT TO BE SEEN WHILE CHANGING IN THIS ISOLATION ENVIRONMENT
THERE'S THAT THING CONSTANTLY LOOKING AT YOU TO BEGIN WITH
WHAT'S THAT?
SURVEILLANCE CAMERA
THE CORNERSTONE OF ISOLATION ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

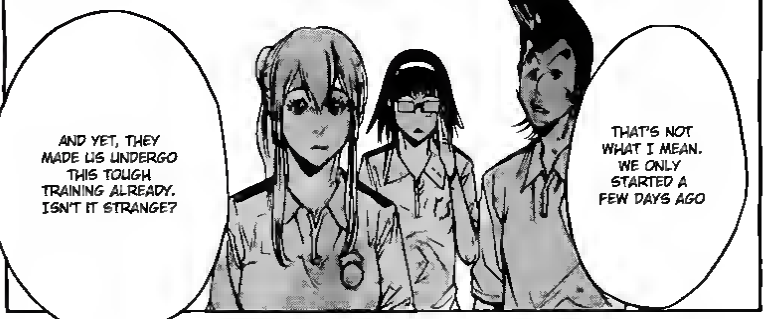
CORNER-STONE!?
THEY USE THAT CAMERA TO CHECK OUR SPEECH AND ACTIONS, BODY TEMPERATURE, HEART RATE, EVERYTHING
SO THEY CAN EVALUATE OUR ABILITY TO ACT, THE STATE OF THE BODY, RESISTANCE TO STRESS IN AN ISOLATION ENVIRONMENT
WC


NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, KOUSEI SAID IN THE PAST
"THE INDISPEN-SABLE QUALITY FOR AN ASTRONAUT"
WHAT WAS THAT?
HEEEH
THEY SEE ALL OF THAT


I- I KNOW
DON'T EVER PEEP THERE AT LEAST!!
BY THE WAY, SHOWER AND TOILET ARE INSIDE

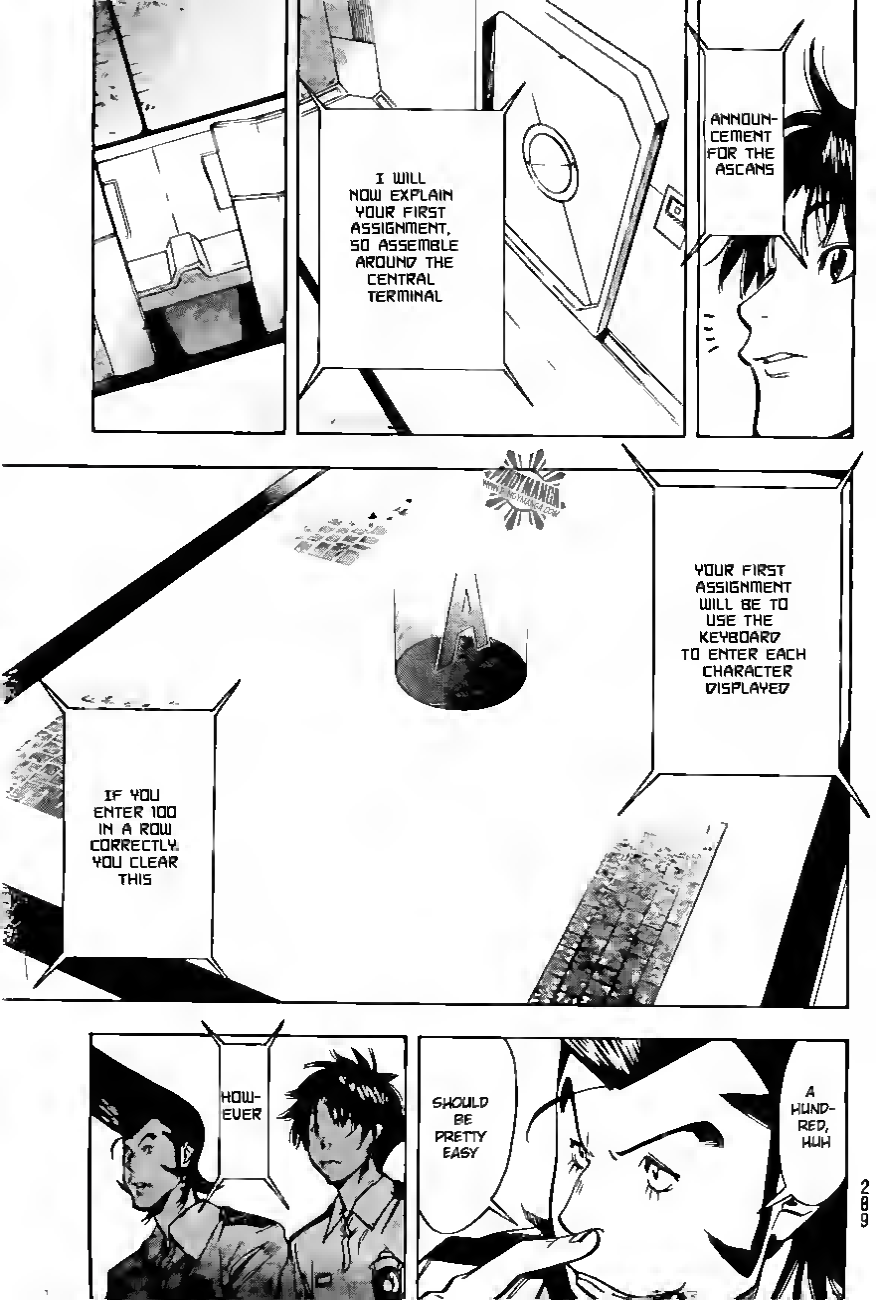
THEY'RE JUST CAPSULES, AND PRETTY CONFINED TOO
SO THESE ARE THE BASIC PRIVATE CABINS
YES, THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH
I SEE
WHAT WAS SIMPLY SPACE ABOVE YOUR HEAD UNDER THE FORCE OF GRAVITY
BECOMES USABLE WHEN YOU'RE IN ZERO GRAVITY
Under gravity
Zero gravity
NOT REALLY
THIS IS THE EXERCISE ROOM

NOWADAYS, THANKS TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDICINE, THE DEGENERATION IN BONE DENSITY AND MUSCLE MASS CAN BE ARRESTED
BUT SAME AS ON THE GROUND, IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING, THEY'LL DEGENERATE NATURALLY, SO YOU NEED TO SUPPLEMENT THEM WITH EXERCISE
FOR NOW, WE'VE LOOKED AROUND THE FACILITIES WE HAVE
HEY, YUUTO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
LET'S GO!!
WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS TRAINING?
WHY? IT'S THE ISOLATION ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR US TO JOIN SIRIUS
IT COULD BE EVEN A LONGER TERM EXERCISE ...


AND YET, THEY MADE US UNDERGO THIS TOUGH TRAINING ALREADY. ISN'T IT STRANGE?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. WE ONLY STARTED A FEW DAYS AGO

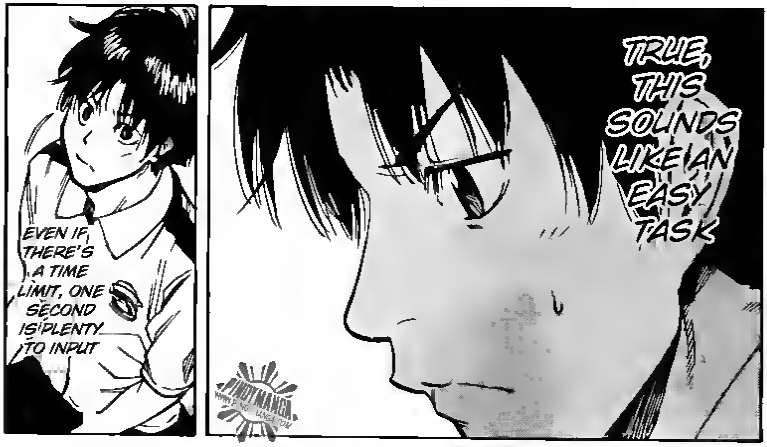
COULD THIS MEAN THAT CORE INC.
IS PLANNING TO GO TO JUPITER AGAIN?

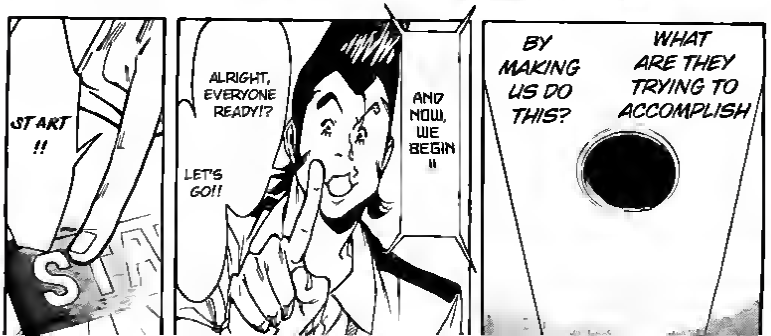
BUT WE CAN AT LEAST THINK ABOUT IT A LITTLE, CAN'T WE?
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GET TOUGH EVENTUALLY, SO THEY'RE DOING IT A BIT EARLY
YOU'RE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS!
THE WAY THE TEAMS WERE DECIDED WAS PRETTY TOUGH TOO
TRUE


ANNOUN-
CEMENT
FOR THE
ASCANS
I WILL
NOW EXPLAIN
YOUR FIRST
ASSIGNMENT,
SO ASSEMBLE
AROUND THE
CENTRAL
TERMINAL
YOUR FIRST
ASSIGNMENT
WILL BE TO
USE THE
KEYBOARD
TO ENTER EACH
CHARACTER
DISPLAYED
IF YOU
ENTER 100
IN A ROW
CORRECTLY,
YOU CLEAR
THIS
A
HUND-
RED,
HUH
SHOULD
BE
PRETTY
EASY
HOW-
EVER

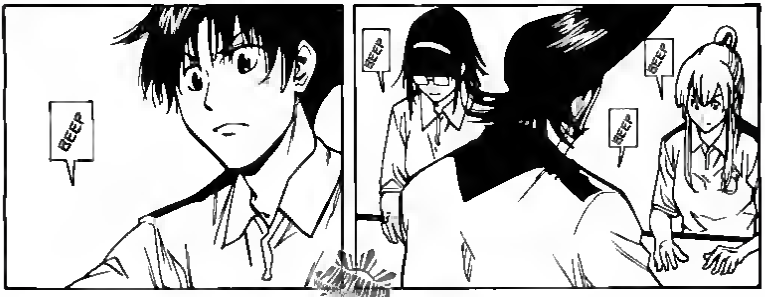
O... ONE SECOND!?
THERE IS A ONE SECOND TIME LIMIT FROM WHEN THE LETTER IS DISPLAYED TO WHEN YOU HAVE TO ENTER IT
IF ALL FOUR ENTER IT CORRECTLY, THE QUESTION IS CLEARED
IT'S ALRIGHT
IF YOU STAY CALM, IT'S PLENTY OF TIME
THE ASSIGNMENT IS TO BE COMPLETED BY 2100
YOU CAN ATTEMPT IT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT UNTIL THEN
TH-THAT'S HOW IT IS...
PIECE OF CAKE
HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO CLEAR THIS, WE WILL NOT PROVIDE YOU WITH TODAY'S FOOD ALLOTMENT
ARE WE ANIMALS THEY'RE TRAINING TO PERFORM?
IT'S PROBABLY EVEN WORSE
IF YOU FAIL EVEN FOR ONE DAY, AND YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO EAT, IT'LL AFFECT YOU THE NEXT DAY
IN THAT CASE, THE PROBABILITY IS HIGH THAT YOU'LL KEEP FAILING AGAIN AND AGAIN

LET'S CLEAR THIS ASSIGNMENT QUICKLY AND EAT OUR FOOD IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA!!
SO THEIR PLAN IS TO PUT US UNDER PRESSURE AND MAKE US FAIL!!
THEY'RE BEING CUNNING... DO THEY THINK IT'LL WORK ON US!!?


EVEN IF THERE'S A TIME LIMIT, ONE SECOND IS PLENTY TO INPUT
TRUE, THIS SOUNDS LIKE AN EASY TASK


START !!
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE READY!?
LET'S GO!!
AND NOW, WE BEGIN !!
BY MAKING US DO THIS?
WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH

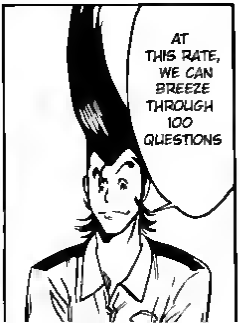
ヴィンK


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

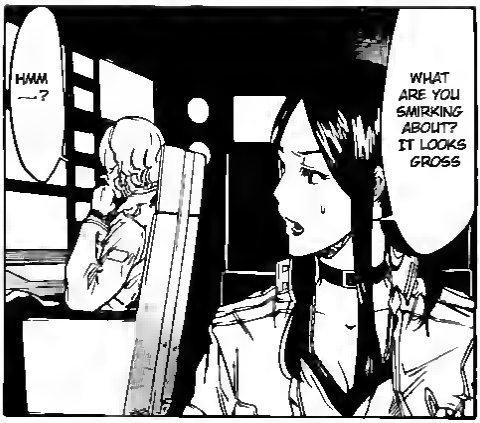
SO THE INTERVAL TO THE NEXT CHARACTER IS 10 SECONDS
Next
8sec

PIN-PON
QUES-TION 1 CLEAR
YEAH!

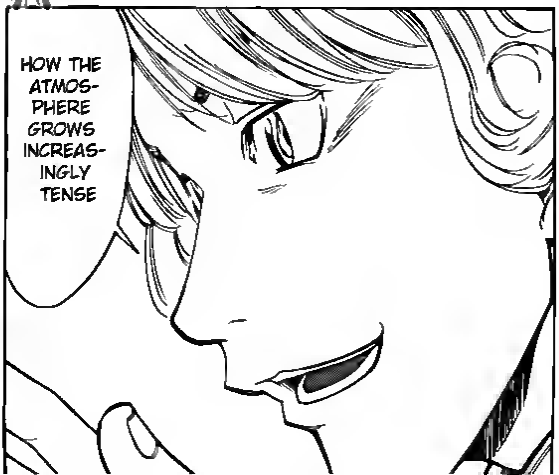
YES
WE CAN DO THIS


AT THIS RATE, WE CAN BREEZE THROUGH 100 QUESTIONS

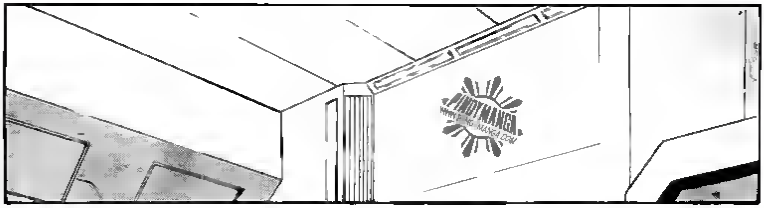
BUT ISN'T IT FUN TO IMAGINE IT?

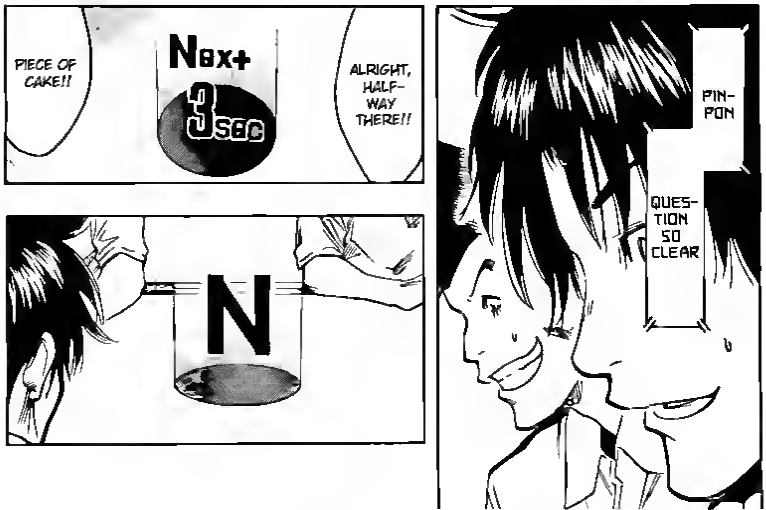

HMM —?
WHAT ARE YOU SMIRKING ABOUT? IT LOOKS GROSS

YOU'RE PROBABLY TOLD OFTEN THAT YOUR PERSONALITY IS TWISTED
I'M NOT!!


HOW THE ATMOS-PHERE GROWS INCREAS-INGLY TENSE

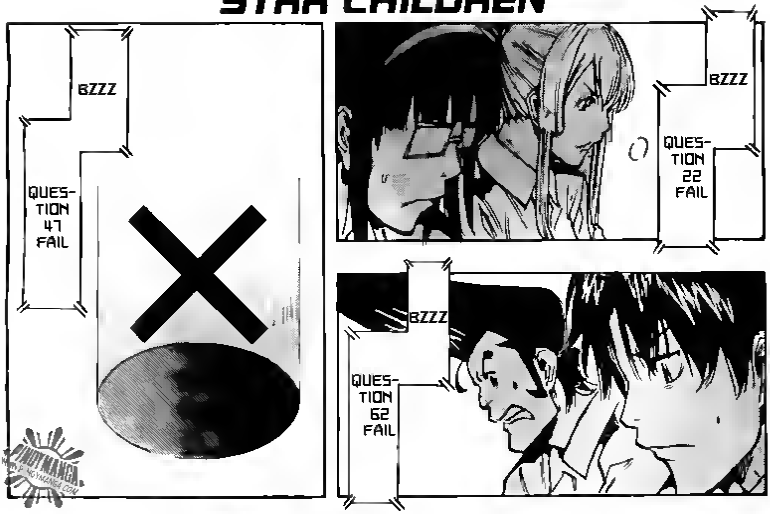
YOU GOTTA BE CAREFUL —— !!
HEEEY, YULITO?
I PRESSED THE WRONG KEY NEXT TO IT
SO-RRY
BZZZ
QUES-TION 33 FAIL

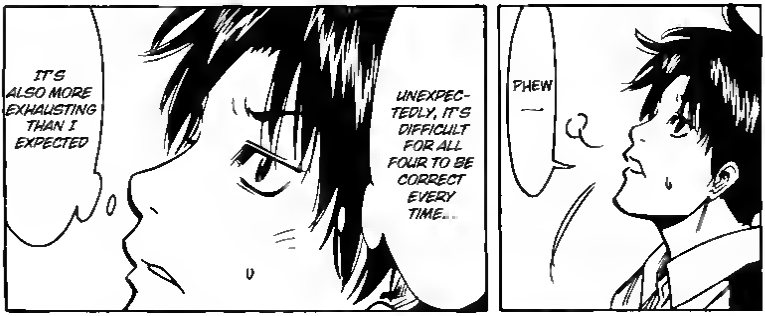

HIGH KLASSE

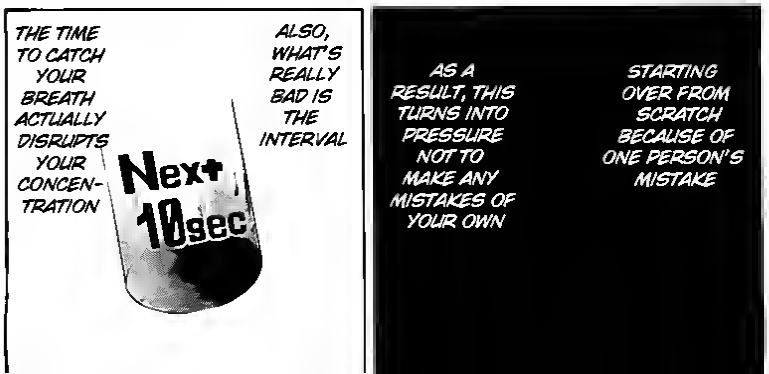

PIECE OF CAKE!!
Next 3sec
ALRIGHT, HALF-WAY THERE!!
N
PIN-PON
QUES-TION 50 CLEAR

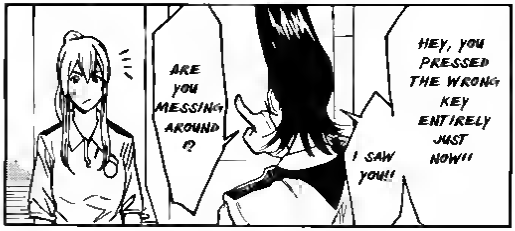
UGH
BZZZ
QUES-
TION
S1
FAIL
S-
SORRY
DON'T
WORRY,
LET'S GO
AGAIN!!
PIN-
PON
QUES-
TION
80
CLEAR
JUST
20
MORE
!!
WHA!
BZZZ
QUES-
TION
81
FAIL
IT
WASN'T
"O"?
IT
WAS
"O"
SHIT!
SO IT'S
NOT ONLY
LETTERS!!
LET'S BE
CAREFUL
NEXT TIME

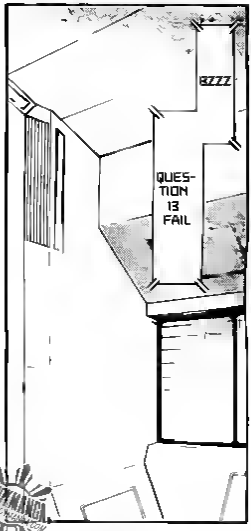
STAR CHILDREN

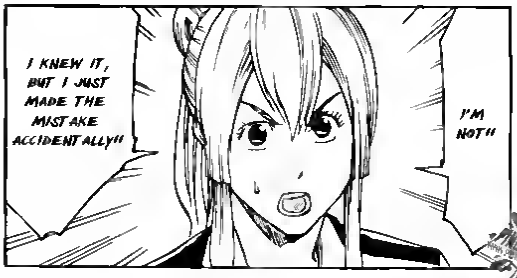





THE TIME TO CATCH YOUR BREATH ACTUALLY DISRUPTS YOUR CONCEN-TRATION
ALSO, WHAT'S REALLY BAD IS THE INTERVAL
Next 10sec
AS A RESULT, THIS TURNS INTO PRESSURE NOT TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES OF YOUR OWN
STARTING OVER FROM SCRATCH BECAUSE OF ONE PERSON'S MISTAKE


ARE YOU MESSING AROUND!?
I SAW YOU!!
HEY, YOU PRESSED THE WRONG KEY ENTIRELY JUST NOW!!


BZZZ
QUESTION 13 FAIL

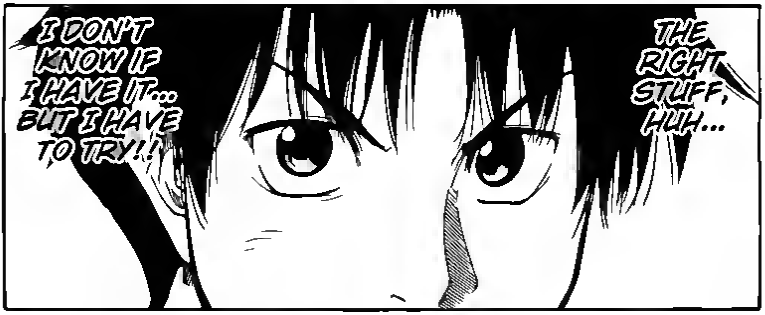

I KNEW IT, BUT I JUST MADE THE MISTAKE ACCIDENTALLY!!
I'M NOT!!

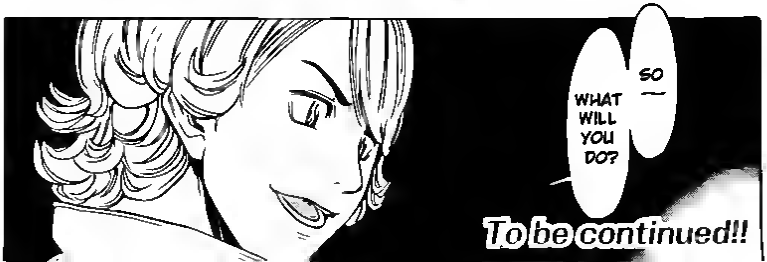
I COULDN'T HELP IT, I JUST PRESSED IT!!
SO YOU ARE MESSING AROUND!!
YOU KNEW IT, AND YOU STILL PRESSED IT!!

!!
LISTEN, YUUTO
WHAT'S ESSENTIAL TO AN ASTRONAUT IS...

OUR ACCURACY KEEPS DROPPING
BECAUSE THE CONCENTRATION IS DECLINING

THAT'S THE RIGHT STUFF!!
COOPERATIVENESS AND FORTITUDE


I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE IT... BUT I HAVE TO TRY!!
THE RIGHT STUFF, HUH...


SO —
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
To be continued!!

QUESTION 32 FAIL

BZZZ

スターチルドレン
STAR CHILDREN

#6 Signal

Kida Masashi

FUJINO-KUN, THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN A ROW YOU MAKE A MISTAKE!!

AGAIN !?

ALSO READ THE INTERVIEW WITH WAKATA-SAN 4 PAGES PRIOR!!

BESIDES, YOU DIDN'T SUPPORT US AND EARN US SOME POINTS EITHER!!

SHUT UP, I KNOW!!

AL-RIGHT !!

I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING...

THIS ISN'T GOOD... THE ATMOSPHERE IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE

I DON'T CARE, JUST DO SOME-THING!!

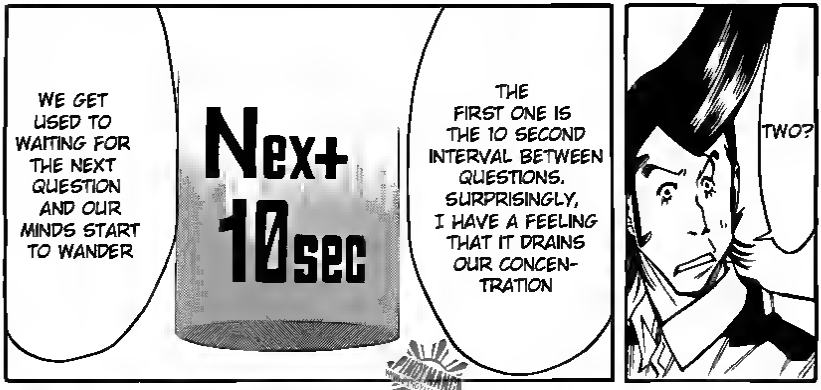
ANYWAY, LET'S START THE NEXT ONE!!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SUPPORT YOU IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS !?

LET'S BREAK FOR NOW!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YUNTO? WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO REST!!
THAT'S RIGHT, THERE'S A TIME LIMIT TO THIS!!
WHY
I THOUGHT YOU WERE FIGHTING, BUT YOUR OPINIONS ARE ACTUALLY THE SAME
MMH --!
TAKE A BREA-THER FOR NOW
AND AFTER THAT, LET'S ALL GET IN SYNC AND TRY ONE MORE TIME

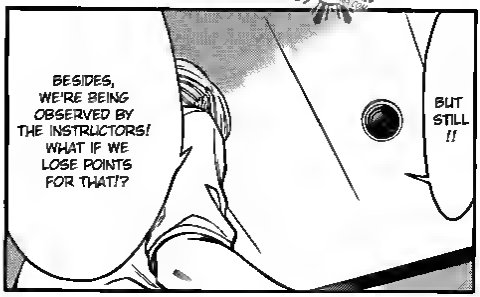
YOU DON'T COPY ME!!
HOLD IT, DON'T COPY ME!!
WHY DO I HAVE TO GET IN SYNC WITH YOU!!? YOU'RE THE ONES WHO NEED TO GET IN SYNC WITH ME!!
SAME HERE, I HAVE TO WISH TO GET IN SYNC WITH THIS WOMAN!!
I KNEW IT, YOU'RE ON THE SAME PAGE AFTER ALL
THE SAME
WE'RE NOT!!
WE'RE NOT!!
GGG HH ...!
... ANY-WAY WHILE WE'RE TAKING A BREAK
I HAVE A PROPOSAL TO MAKE. PLEASE LISTEN
A PRO-POSAL ?

WORKING ON THIS TASK ITSELF IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE
BUT I THINK THERE ARE TWO DIFFICULT POINTS IN IT

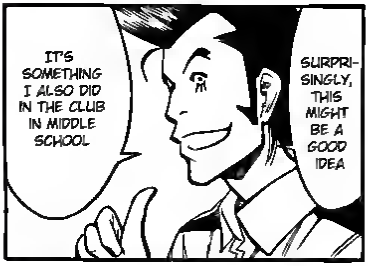

THE FIRST ONE IS THE 10 SECOND INTERVAL BETWEEN QUESTIONS. SURPRISINGLY, I HAVE A FEELING THAT IT DRAINS OUR CONCENTRATION
Next 10sec
WE GET USED TO WAITING FOR THE NEXT QUESTION AND OUR MINDS START TO WANDER
TWO?

THE OTHER PROBLEM IS COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY. THE RULE THAT ONE PERSON'S MISTAKE BECOMES EVERYONE'S MISTAKE TURNS INTO PRESSURE LITTLE BY LITTLE
IN THESE CONDITIONS, YOU KEEP MAKING MISTAKES AND THE PRESSURE INCREASES, AND THAT PRESSURE LEADS TO EVEN MORE MISTAKES
SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TRY

NO WAY!!
IT'S EMBA-RRAS-SING!!


BUT STILL !!
BESIDES, WE'RE BEING OBSERVED BY THE INSTRUCTORS! WHAT IF WE LOSE POINTS FOR THAT!?

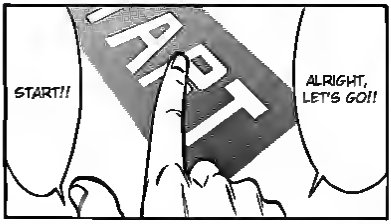
EMBA-RRA-SSING ..?
ONLY THE FOUR OF US ARE HERE

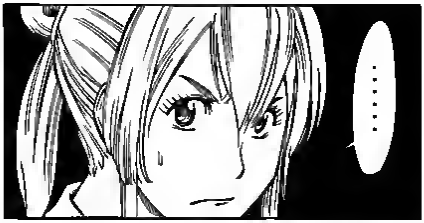

SURPRI-SINGLY, THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA
IT'S SOMETHING I ALSO DID IN THE CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

IT'LL BE AL-RIGHT
THEY DIDN'T SET ANY RESTRICTIONS ON HOW WE CAN COOPERATE ON THIS TASK

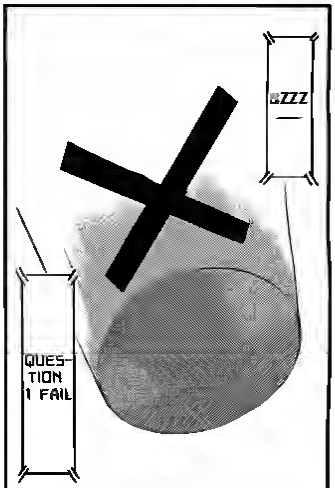
B-BUT..

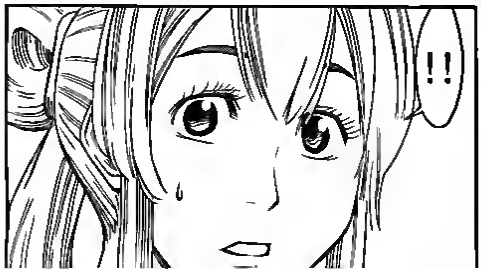
LET'S JUST TRY IT. IF IT DOESN'T WORK, WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!!
SO LET'S TEST IT OUT!!


START!!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!!


.....

WHY DID YOU FAIL IMMEDIATELY...?
WHA- HOLD ON, SUBARU-KUN!

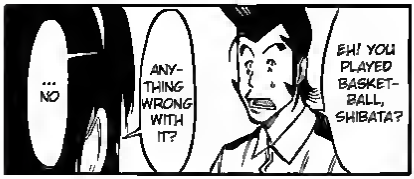

ZZZ
QUESTION 1 FAIL


!!

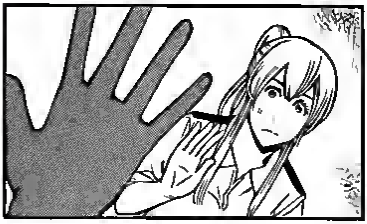
COME ON, EVERY-ONE!!
COME ON!
D-DON'T MIND!
O-OKAY, OKAY!!

I DID THIS IN THE BASKET-BALL CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL TOO
THEY SAY IT MAKES SENSE IN SOMETHING LIKE SPORTS, EVERY TIME THERE'S A MISTAKE YOU SHOUT OUT AND RESET YOUR EMOTIONS

IT'S TRUE, WE CAN SWITCH OVER THIS WAY, WITHOUT FEELING DOWN IN A WEIRD WAY
WE DID THIS IN THE BASEBALL CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AS WELL, AFTER EVERY MISTAKE

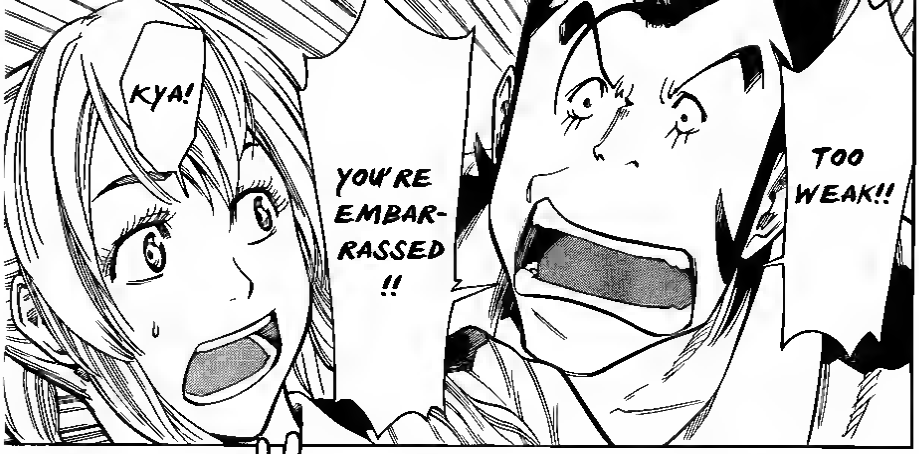

... NO
ANY-THING WRONG WITH IT?
EH! YOU PLAYED BASKET-BALL, SHIBATA?

KASUGAI-SAN, YOU TOO!!
COME ON!!

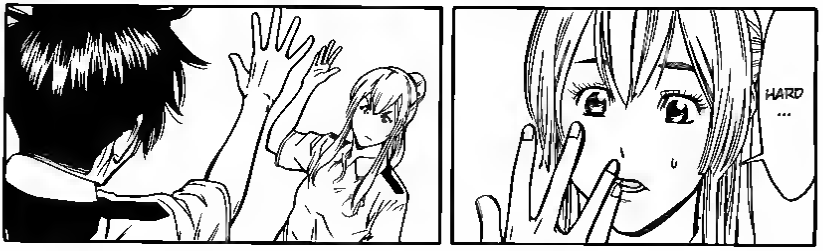


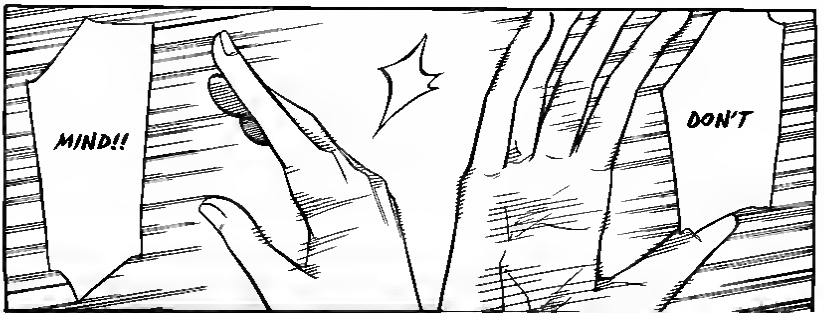
JUST HIGH FIVE AND SHOUT OUT!!
DON'T BLAME YOUR PARTNERS EVEN IF THEY FAIL

DON'T MIND
D-


KYA!
YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSED !!
TOO WEAK!!

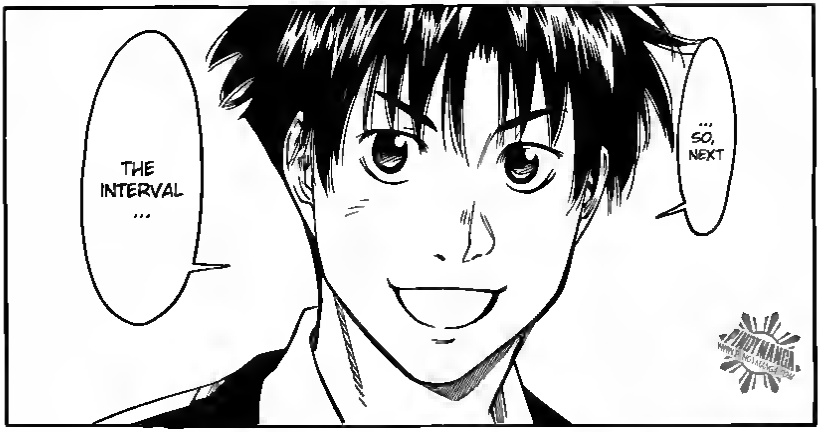
GIVE IT A GOOD SLAP
DO IT HARDER
I'VE NEVER DONE SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE
B- BUT I CAN'T HELP IT


HARD ...

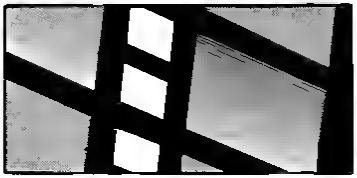

MIND!!
DON'T

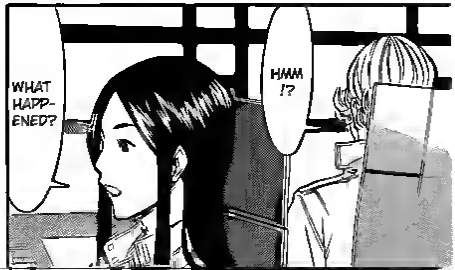
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SWITCH OVER BETTER COMPARED TO JUST GOING TO THE NEXT ONE WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING
...BUT IT'S TRUE

TH-THAT WAS TOO HARD ...
OUCH ...


THE INTERVAL ...
...SO, NEXT

WHAT ARE THE GROUP 7 GUYS DOING?

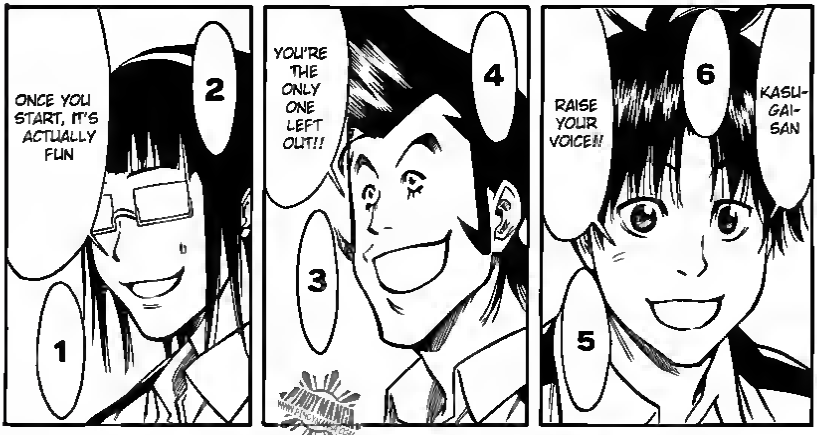


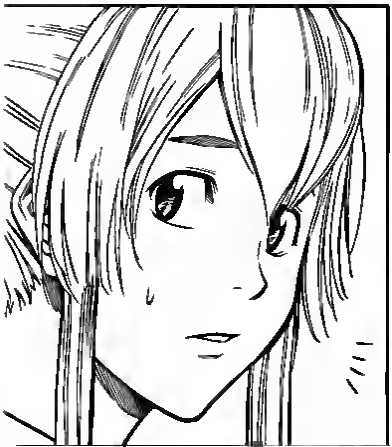

WHAT HAPP-ENED?
HMM !?

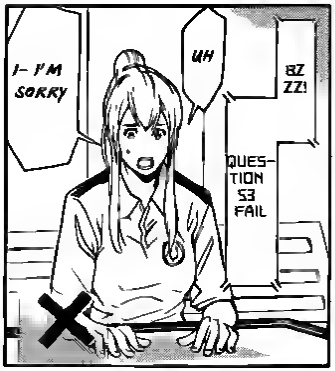
HE—EH
HOW INTER-ESTING
LET ME SEE
TRUE
FOR 100 QUESTIONS, WE SHOULD MAINTAIN FOCUS FOR ABOUT 18 AND A HALF MINUTES
BECAUSE THERE ARE BREAKS IN THE MIDDLE AND OUR MINDS START WANDERING, WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO KEEP ON TRACK
..BUT STILL
SUCH A CHILDISH TRICK
REALLY? I LIKE IT!!
IT'S MORE EXCITING TO DO IT TOGETHER
SOME-HOW..
IT FEELS LIKE EVERYONE'S THOUGHTS COME TOGETHER
LIKE WHEN YOU GREET THE NEW YEAR...

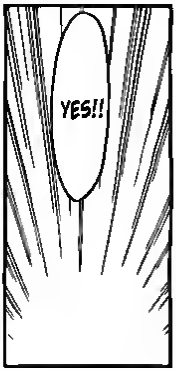
OR WHEN A SPACESHIP IS ABOUT TO LIFT OFF ...
10
9
8
7
Next Page
6
5
4
3
2
1
PIN-PON!
QUES-TION 51 COR-RECT
YEAH !!
J
YES!!

8
10
9
7

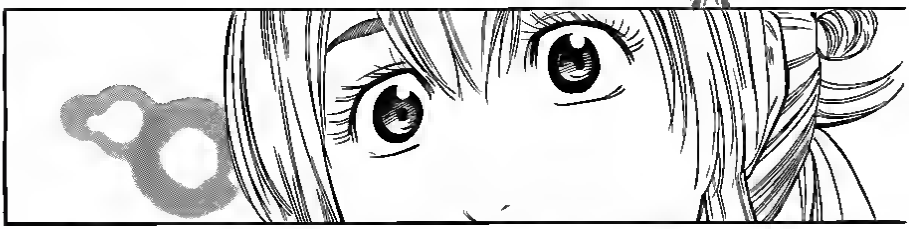

ONCE YOU START, IT'S ACTUALLY FUN
2
1
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUT!!
4
3
RAISE YOUR VOICE!!
6
KASUGAI-SAN
5

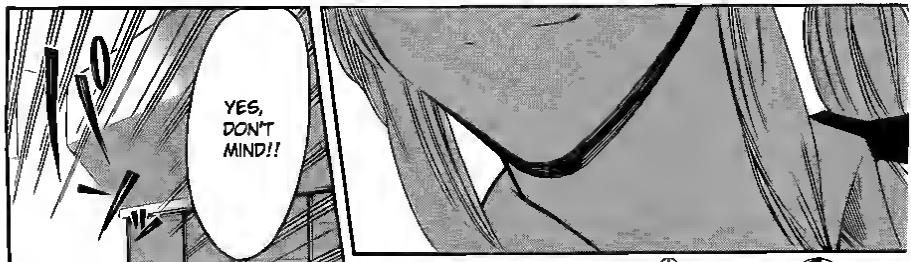



I- I'M SORRY
UH
BZ ZZ!
QUES-TION 53 FAIL

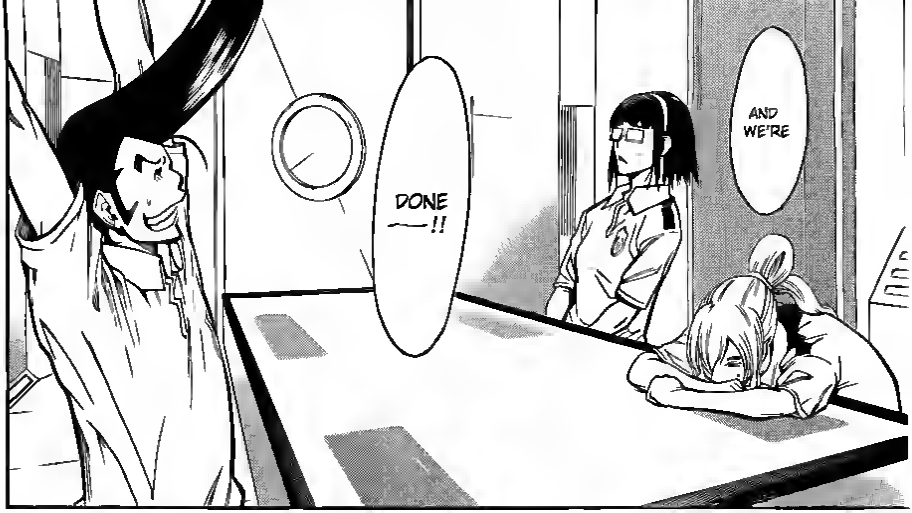

YES!!

DON'T MIND!
GIMME A FIVE!!
OKAAAY, SWITCH OVER!!

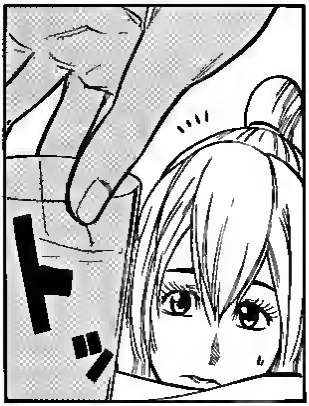



YES, DON'T MIND!!

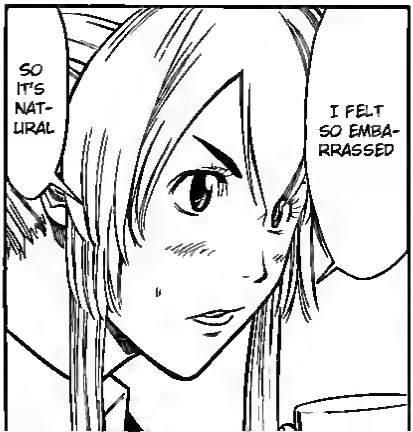
YES!!
PIN-PON
GOOD, NEXT!!
3
2
1
GROUP 7, 100 QUESTIONS ANSWERED CORRECTLY!!!
WE DIDN'T EVEN PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT QUESTION NUMBER IT WAS
BECA-USE WE WERE COUN-TING OUT LOUD
IT WAS THE HUND-REDTH JUST NOW !?
EH!?


DONE ——!!
AND WE'RE

HAVE SOME WATER
TOGE-THER WITH EVER-YONE

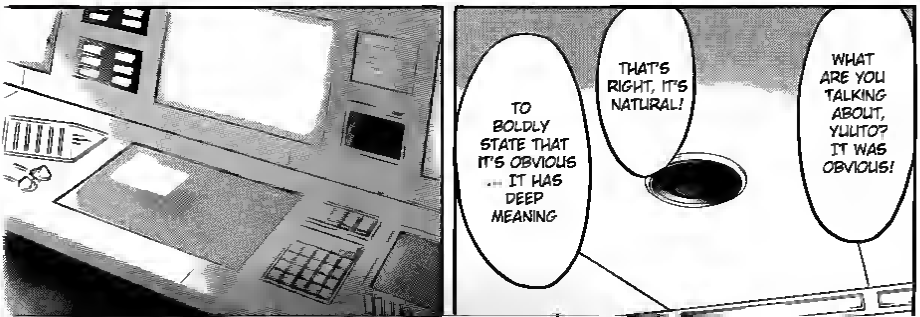

トッ

I YELLED TOO MUCH, NOW MY THROAT HURTS
MMM MM ...!
ケホッ

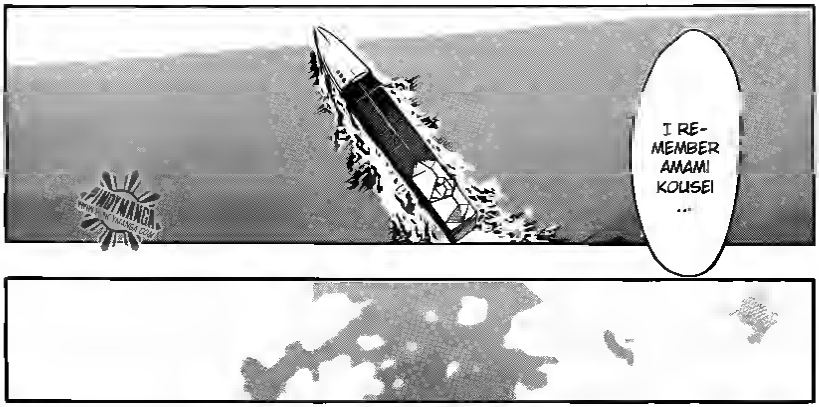

I FELT SO EMBA-RRASSED
SO IT'S NAT-URAL

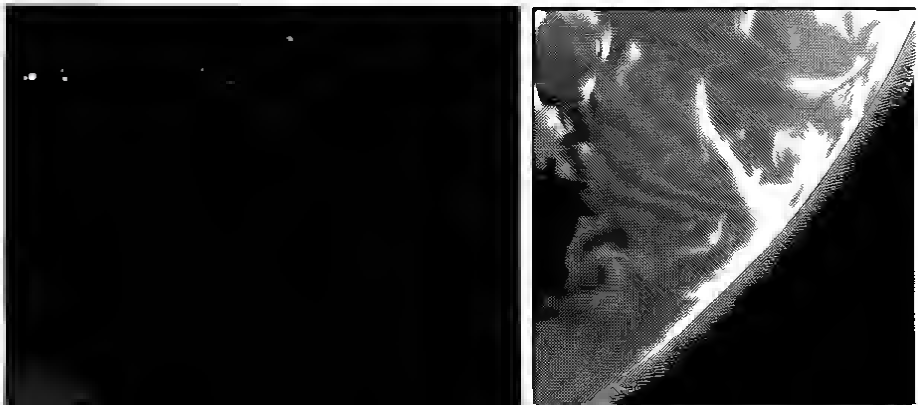
WELL, FOR A MINUTE I DIDN'T THINK WE'D MAKE IT
BUT WE GOT THROUGH IT THANKS TO YUUTO'S PROPOSAL

BUT NOW I WANT TO GET THROUGH THE TRAINING WITH THESE MEMBERS!!
...YOU KNOW
AT FIRST, I HAD DOUBTS WHETHER THIS TEAM COULD DO IT


TO BOLDLY STATE THAT IT'S OBVIOUS ... IT HAS DEEP MEANING
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S NATURAL!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YUUTO? IT WAS OBVIOUS!

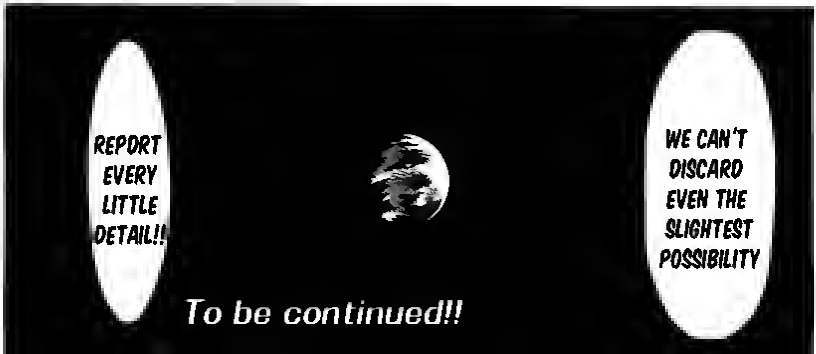
HU HU
I KNEW IT, THAT KID IS INTERESTING
I DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE HIM
THAT KIND OF A RANDOM AND UNRELIABLE GUY
AS USUAL, YOU'RE A DATA SUPREMACIST, JIGAMI
... BUT
WHEN I LOOK AT THAT BOY


I REMEMBER AMAMI KOUSEI ...



WHAT'S THE STATUS?
IT WAS WAS ONLY FOR AN INSTANT, SO WE CAN'T MAKE THE DETERMINATION THAT IT WAS THE JUPITNEER
THE EXPLORATION SATELLITE TRAILING IT CAUGHT A SIGNAL
WHAT ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS——?

DIRECTOR SUBARU!!
CONTINUE THE OBSERVATIONS... COLLECT ALL DATA, NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL
THIS BIG SHOT IS YUUTO'S FATHER!!
AND IS THERE A THREAD OF HOPE THAT KOUSEI IS ALIVE...!?


REPORT EVERY LITTLE DETAIL!!
WE CAN'T DISCARD EVEN THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY
To be continued!!